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East Europe

FBIS-EEU-96-169
Thursday
29 August 1996

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Daily Report
East Europe

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Albania: PS Does Not Recognize Rexhepi as Deputy

AU2808160596 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 28 Aug 96 p 2

["Resolution" adopted by the 2d Socialist Party Congress in Tirana on 25 August: "The Stand of the Socialist Party and Its Former Candidates for Deputy on Not Taking Part in the People's Assembly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Socialist Party [PS] Second Congress, having analyzed the political situation, has noticed that the country has been thrust into a deep political and institutional crisis. The congress observes that this situation is a consequence of the electoral farce of 26 May, which was a harsh blow against the essence of Albania's fragile democracy, which lies in free elections. The PS Second Congress appreciates the justice of the stand taken by the former PS candidates for deputy, the party presidium, and the General Management Committee to boycott and refuse to recognize the elections. It therefore considers fair the stand taken by the Management Committee in not recognizing Sali Rexhepi as a PS deputy. It supports the stands taken by party forums and declares that it will not recognize as a PS deputy anyone who by various machinations succeeds in infiltrating the People's Assembly.

Albania: PS Congress Resolution Appeals for Nano's Release

AU2808161796 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 28 Aug 96 p 2

[Resolution adopted by the 2d Socialist Party Congress in Tirana on 25 August: "Fatos Nano's Release—Demanded by the Albanian and International Public"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Being determined, consistent, and active in justifying, respecting, and defending human rights; being convinced that the defense of basic human rights and freedoms lies at the foundation of democracy, justice, and social understanding; being aware that any genuinely democratic regime respects human rights and freedoms; bearing in mind the systematic violation of basic human rights and freedoms by Berisha's regime, starting from violations of the right to free speech but extending to arrests and convictions on political grounds, abuses that culminated in the forcible theft of the people's votes in the parliamentary elections of 26 May; actively and continually standing up for the cause of Nano as a key problem of democracy in Albania and an incontestable accusation against Berisha's regime that has been lording it in the most unprincipled manner over the Socialist opposition to the point of high-handedly imprisoning Socialist Party [PS] Chairman Fatos Nano for purely political motives; noticing that our continual denunciations and protests in the defense of Fatos Nano are in accordance to the principles and conclusions of the documents of democratic international institutions, including the International Helsinki Federation, Amnesty International, the report of the U.S. State Department, and the resolution of the Interparliamentary Union, which has recently asked for Fatos Nano's release in a resolution of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians; considering the European Convention for the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms to be the fullest document for the recognition and effective defense of the rights and freedoms it lays down and taking the ratification of this convention to be a guarantee of its genuine enforcement in our country; considering the imprisonment of Fatos Nano to be a flagrant injustice perpetrated by the regime and a savage blow not simply against an individual, but against the chairman of the largest opposition party, the opposition as a whole, and our fragile democracy; recognizing and suffering under the multifaceted crisis and the deep institutional crisis that has gripped the Republic of Albania since the theft of the votes of the People, the PS, through its highest forum, the 2d PS Congress, once again appeals to Sali Berisha, president of the republic and chairman of the High Council of Justice, who can currently be considered the sole remaining legitimate institution in Albania following the coup d'etat of 26 May, to immediately release Fatos Nano, his political hostage held by the judicial authorities that are under his direct instructions.

This act, which would to some extent make up for the flagrant and antidemocratic behavior of an authoritarian regime, would fulfill the demands of a petition signed by 700,000 Albanians, would meet the insistent and argued requests of the most prestigious international institutions, and would directly help to ameliorate the current political climate, to further democratic processes in the country, and to restore the confidence of the Albanian people in the democracy that was so trampled underfoot by the electoral farce of 26 May. The immediate release of PS Chairman Fatos Nano would show that the president of the republic, even if belatedly, has the ability and inclination to act morally and legally in response to the demands of the whole of the Albanian public and the resolutions of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the Interparliamentary Union, the International Helsinki Federation, and Amnesty International. The release of Fatos Nano would be an important sign of democratic emancipation and a hopeful gesture for the long-expected and desired progress of democracy in our country.

Albania: PS Congress Resolution on Conditions for Elections

AU2808162596 Tirana ALBANIA in Albanian 28 Aug 96 p 3

["Resolution of the 2d Socialist Party Congress on the Elections" adopted in Tirana on 25 August]

[FBIS Translated Text] Democratic processes in Albania suffered a harsh blow in the farcical elections of 26 May. The majority of the Albanian electorate's right to a free vote was affronted. The results of these elections demonstrated once again to the public at home and abroad what the Democratic Party and its government represent. The Socialist Party [PS], the country's largest opposition force, has consistently condemned the total manipulation of these elections and rejects the legitimacy of the parliament that emerged from them. It has welcomed and supported all the declarations by the U.S. State Department, especially that of 24 August, the resolutions of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, and the report of the OSCE in connection with the elections, and considers that the apathy of today poses a danger that the scenario of 26 May will be repeated at the local elections of 20 October.

The PS is committed to contributing to and taking part in the local government elections with the aim of restoring the Albanian electorate's faith in their right to a free vote, and at the same time providing the government with an opportunity to show at these elections that it has taken concrete steps to restore democratic normality and to conduct general parliamentary elections in as short a time as possible.

Our participation in these elections is conditional on the fulfillment of demands that are in accordance with Resolution 1,095 of the Council of Europe, the recommendations of the U.S. State Department, and other international institutions. The PS demands:

a) As political guarantees:

1) The institutionalization of a roundtable of political forces which will decide by a consensus to hold elections for a constitutional assembly that will pave the way for the approval of the constitution of the Republic of Albania. The members of the assembly are to be elected together at the same time as the local government elections, and the date of early parliamentary elections is to be decided as soon as possible.

b) Political and legal demands:

1) Only electoral subjects will have the right to propose members of electoral commissions at all levels. These commissions will be precisely balanced between the parties of the government and those of the genuine opposition. The formula for building the commissions will be the same as that used for the referendum on approving the draft constitution on 6 November 1994.

2) The clauses of the Genocide Law and the Law on Screening Official Figures that remove citizens' constitutional rights to be elected must be revoked. The legal commission on screening political figures must have a pluralist composition.

3) Voters, with the exception of members of commissions and observers, must vote only in voting stations where they are registered. The government decision that has subordinated civil registry offices to the prefectures must be revoked. Voters must be equipped with identity cards or certificates with a photograph.

4) Full legal guarantees must be provided for the impartiality of the police, the National Intelligence Service, and other specialist forces in the electoral process. The inviolability of opposition representatives on electoral commissions at all levels must be guaranteed.

5) Guarantees must be provided that the members of commissions will have the right to sign the protocols of the voting results and that every political force taking part in the polls may receive a copy of them.

6) The right of the electoral participants to express their opinions in the state electronic media must be regulated by law, with the aim of putting an end to the successive abuses perpetrated by the ruling party.

7) International monitoring must be ensured at all levels before, during, and after the electoral process.

8) The congress will delegate to the new General Management Committee the right to follow the progress of the response to this resolution and to make the appropriate decisions.

Albania: Center Pole Leaders Praise PS Congress

AU2808160696 Tirana POLI I QENDRES in Albanian 28 Aug 96 p 3

[Statements by Democratic Alliance President Neritan Ceka and Social Democratic Party Chairman Skender Gjinushi; place and date not given: "Center Pole Leaders on the Socialist Party Congress"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ceka] I think that the Socialist Party [PS] Congress was the congress of a party of citizens, of a party that has introduced debate into its highest forums. This congress's most important step was doubtless to make the PS an electable party. It was a congress that the ruling party, in particular, would find enviable because its own conferences are reminiscent of those of the Albanian Workers Party

[PPSh]. Meanwhile, at least in the style of discussion and the way problems were presented, the PS Congress showed that the party is becoming a genuinely electable force. This is also the basis on which this party can make a political elite out of its social democratic team. This is not an overnight process, and there must be no illusions that this congress marked an end to the reform process. The fact is that, having become electable, and having broken with the past by denouncing the PPSh, the PS has expanded its scope not only for cooperation, which has now existed for four years both in the parliament and in extraparliamentary political activities, but for constructing a strategy in common with several other parties. The PS will play a major role in dismantling Berisha's dictatorship in Albania and creating genuine conditions for free and fair elections.

[Gjinushi] The PS Congress, among other things, underlined the need for the PS to be as close as possible to the social democratic alternative. Indeed, Berisha himself, the PS's foremost opponent who wants to see the annihilation of the party, suggested in what he called his message to the congress that it might embrace the European social democratic alternative. The need for a strong social democracy in Albania is being affirmed on all sides, highlighting the great role the Social Democratic Party [PSD] plays in this context and this party's highly positive orientation and commitment. This shows that social democratic values are increasingly acceptable and necessary not for the Albanian Left, as is inevitable, but also for the center and even the Right, which accept them as a competitive alternative—of course, I am thinking of the serious right wing and not a right wing of thieves. This, as Dritero Agolli said at the congress, is not a confrontation of parties. The PS has its own path and its own way of drawing close to European parties. The PSD has its own irreplaceable role as a primary, unspotted, and new party that cannot be attacked over its past. The PSD has an important left of center role. As a party of the Left and a party within the Center Pole, under Albanian conditions in which the strife between the PS and the Democratic Party is increasingly embittering the political struggle, the PSD is accomplishing well the mission it possesses as a force of the center, making it also possible to create coalitions that are much more a force for renovation than any party in isolation.

Bulgaria: Pirinski Comments on Talks in Washington

AU2808183896 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bulgarian Foreign Minister Georgi Pirinski is continuing his visit to the United States. Today he is in Chicago, where he is attending the Democratic Party's national convention. Here is how Georgi Pirinski summed up the most important matters discussed in his meetings and conversations with the American representatives to date, in a special telephone interview for the Khorizont Program.

[Begin Pirinski recording] In my series of meetings in Washington, the most important talks were held at the State Department with Mr. Strobe Talbott, acting U.S. secretary of state; with Mr. Samuel Burger, deputy adviser at the National Security Council; and, of course, at the Treasury Department with the assistant secretary responsible for international cooperation.

The first point is the joint assessment that we reached on the positive development of our bilateral relations in recent months, of which the most characteristic example was the granting of most-favored-nation status to Bulgaria on a permanent basis, by a law passed by the two chambers of Congress, and put into effect by President Clinton at the end of July. Furthermore, there exists a desire on both sides and a shared viewpoint on the need for further development of the political dialogue, of our economic relations, and of the cooperation in the cultural and educational fields. One of the subjects discussed was regional stability in southeast Europe; another was the economic reform in Bulgaria and the measures for structural reorganization of the main branches of the economy that are being carried out at the moment.

During my talks both at the IMF with Deputy Managing Director Fisher and at the World Bank, at an equally high level, great attention was paid and interest expressed in the extent that the Bulgarians and the Bulgarian Government can manage to achieve the criteria embodied in the agreement signed with the IMF and the agreement that is being prepared with the World Bank. [end recording]

Bulgaria: Pirinski Repeats 'Kremlin Position on NATO'

AU2908082996 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 29 Aug 96 p 3

[Commentary by Milena Boyadzhieva: "Pirinski Ingratiates Himself With Moscow From Washington"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pirinski again appeared unprepared. An entire team of experts lost sleep over his "Regional Security in Balkan and NATO and EU Expansion" presentation, and his people even succeeded in organizing a news conference for him in Washington. However, the people in Washington are not catching flies, and they wanted to hear something specific from Bulgaria's chief diplomat regarding the position of Bulgaria (and Videnov's cabinet) on relations between Bulgaria and NATO. In his answer, Pirinski admitted that Bulgaria has not requested NATO membership. In front of the representatives of the U.S. mass media, he repeated what the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] has been singing for the second year already and what the entire world knows as the Kremlin position on NATO: NATO's expansion must not create new dividing lines (meaning with Russia). In this sense, the BSP should not be concerned with the thought that Moscow has turned its back on our Socialists. Their candidate is bowing to the Kremlin even from Washington.

Bulgaria: Appeal Against Refusal To Register Pirinski

AU2808133896 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1300 GMT 28 Aug 96

[Report by Vladislav Ustoich]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Together for Bulgaria" coalition [of the Democratic Left] lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court against the refusal by the Central Electoral Commission to register Georgi Pirinski as a presidential candidate, Ana Karaivanova announced today at the candidate's election campaign headquarters. Ms. Karaivanova and Filip Bokov commented on the motives for the Central Electoral Commission's refusal and emphasized that all the required documents were presented.

Bulgaria: Zhelev Decrees on Changes in Army Senior Command

AU2908081296 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 29 Aug 96 p 3

[Article by Yovka Dimitrova: "Zhelev Allows Changes in Army"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zhelev signed the last decrees for this year on 15 changes in the Army senior command. The changes were agreed upon last week in Grozden with Defense Minister Dimitur Pavlov and General Staff Chief General Totomirov.

On 1 September, General Angel Angelov will become head of the Army's Inspectorate Staff. General Lyuben Pandev will be chief inspector for human rights for one year. Colonel Lilyan Dinkov will be chief inspector for material-technical supply also for one year, while Rear Admiral Mincho Bakalov will be Navy inspector.

General Khristo Vasilev becomes deputy commander of the General Staff.

Colonel Radion Popov becomes chief of the "Arms Control" Administration. Colonel Zlatyu Zlatev becomes chief of the "Equipment" Administration.

General Angel Marin will be chief of Missile Troops and Artillery for one year, and Col. Emil Bozhanov will be chief of Armored Tanks and Vehicle Equipment—also for one year.

Colonel Kiril Vasilev will be chief of Tsvetan Totomirov's office. Captain First Class Mikhail Yordanov is the new head of the Varna Naval School.

Bulgaria: Army Relocates Heavy Arms and Equipment

AU2908092996 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 29 Aug 96 p 2

[Article by Vasil Popov: "Army Relocates Heavy Arms and Equipment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] More than 10 self-propelled artillery launchers were seen moving along mountainous roads at the end of last week. The movement of heavy vehicles was also reported over the next days in other regions of the country, DUMA has learned from its own sources. Our correspondents reported that the reason for the movement is unclear, except for reasons related to training in the firing ranges. In order to clarify the development, on 28 August we contacted Lieutenant General Lyuben Pekhlivanov, deputy head of the General Staff on material-technical supply.

This is how General Pekhlivanov explained the movement that has been noticed: A relocation of arms and combat equipment will take place in accordance with Decree No. 216 of the Council of Ministers from 15 November 1995, on the concept on developing the Bulgarian Army until the year 2010. The timetable for a part of the reform envisaged for 1996 has been adopted. The commands of the Armed Forces branches and the armies have been reorganized and turned into main staffs and army corps. Certain units and detachments will be restructured in accordance with the transition toward the corp-brigade organization.

The relocation of the equipment, which excites the mass media, will basically be implemented in August-November. It is a part of the reform and related to deploying the tanks and armored carriers we received from Russia, General Pekhlivanov said. According to him surplus equipment will remain in certain divisions and regiments, and it must be dispatched to other units and detachments, which will be reorganized in the next stage of the reform. The General remarked that the Army reform includes three components: restructuring, relocation and modernization, and rearming. DUMA reported earlier about this.

In addition, the equipment that has to be removed in accordance with the Conventional Arms in Europe Treaty will be transported to the plants where it will be discarded and broken up. The equipment will be transported by train and road, and partly self-propelled. General Pekhlivanov pointed out that only this part of the reform, which has been financially guaranteed, will be implemented by the end of the year.

Defense Minister Pavlov has sent a letter to National Assembly Chairman Blagovest Sendov, informing him about the beginning of the relocation.

Bulgaria: 'Grave Accidents' Said Concealed at Kozloduy

AU2608072096 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 24 Aug 96 pp 1-2

[Article by Anna Radeva: "Accidents at the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant Concealed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Radio "Express" quoted a reliable source at the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant and reported that two grave accidents at the plant in the last two months have been concealed. The water in the Fifth Reactor's active zone boiled at 108 degrees. Despite the warnings of the duty controllers, the leadership did not take any measures for more than three hours. One month later, the same accident occured in the First Reactor. Again, the event was kept secret. In a telephone interview, Daniel Peychev, duty engineer at the Fifth Reactor, said: "This was a deviation that was brought under control in time. Fortunately, everything ended well." According to him, the systems for protecting the reactor are sufficiently reliable and could prevent a serious accident. He said that the accident at the First Reactor was of a different character, but refused to comment. Concealing the two accidents was given the blessing first of the Kozloduy Nuclear Plant leadership and then of Energy Minister Rumen Ovcharov.

According to Yanko Yanev, the already former chief of the Committee for the Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Energy, Bulgaria's nuclear safety is not at the necessary level, and there are no clear goals, organization, or a sufficient number of qualified cadres. We have only 6,000 nuclear-energy experts, while the other European countries have at least twice as many.

Recently, without anybody's permission, French valves for thermopower plants, which, until now, have not been used in nuclear reactors, were installed in Kozloduy. This fact is viewed as a violation, for which the plant's chief could be prosecuted, Yanko Yanev said. He and the Committee for the Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Energy do not know why valves that do not correspond to the requirements were purchased. Consequently, the valves have been reconstructed, and now their use is allowed, he said.

Bulgaria: Official Denies Accidents at Nuclear Plant

AU2708085996 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 27 Aug 96 p 6

[Staff report: "Nuclear Committee: Two Accidents at Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant Were Not Kept Secret"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 26 August Tinko Ganchev, national coordinator in applying the International Scale on Nuclear Safety Events—INES, informed TRUD that no accidents at the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant have been kept secret. The two cases our public did not know about, and which were reported by an anonymous source to Radio Express on Friday, have been reported by the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant to the Committee for the Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Energy.

The "boiling" in the 1,000-megawatt Fifth Reactor took place in May, when the reactor was in a cool state [okhladeno sustoyanie]. The event has been assessed as an anomaly that belongs to the first level of INES's seven-level scale. Only events at this scale's level four and higher are considered accidents. The incident with the First Reactor also took place in May. While opening the reactor, which was shut down at that time, a small quantity of steam leaked into the zone. The case has been classified as a level-one event. The IAEA has confirmed our classification.

Bulgaria: Dismissal of Nuclear Committee Chief Criticized

AU2608085496 Sofia PARI in Bulgarian 24 Aug 96 p 3

[Article by Milka Stefanova: "Party Functionary Heads Nuclear Safety"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 23 August, Yanko Yanev, chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Energy [KMIAE] officially informed the committee's members and journalists of his dismissal. The order was handed to him by Energy Minister Rumen Ovcharov on Wednesday [21 August] without any explanation. Mr. Yanev confirmed that he was asked first to resign. He did not agree to leave without hearing any arguments against his performance. He thinks that there are personal reasons behind his dismissal, which are the real reasons, but, at present, he does not want to comment on his sudden dismissal. The dismissal is taking place in a period when the deputies and most of the state leaders are on vacation, and there is no one to react to his objections. While handing Yanko Yanev the dismissal order, Minister Ovcharov did not offer him another [illegible] in the country's power supply system. [passage omitted]

Our country is known for its strict implementation of the international nuclear safety norms. As a result, at the end of 1995, the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] accepted our objection to stopping Kozloduy's First Reactor during the peak season as the G-7 countries demanded. Against the background of the threats to foil the all-European ecology meeting, the KMIAE presented an expert analysis in defense of our national interests and withstood the pressure. Our experts' competence was respected, and the ultimatum was eliminated. At that time, many world figures credited Yanko Yanev with this success and stressed his unquestionable authority.

Against all those facts, no answer was given to the question why, nine months after adopting the Law on the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, the government did not adopt the strategy for the KMIAE's structure and development. [passage omitted]

Now it is clear that this detail was decisive. No political force is standing behind Yanko Yanev and his efforts to create an independent international lobby to resolve our power supply problems. At least the political force that is in power today is not standing behind him. The decision to replace Yanev with a Bulgarian Socialist Party functionary is indicative of the style of government imposed by Zhan Videnov's team. Unfortunately, this does not apply only to the power supply system. This style is horrible for the state against the background of its current situation. If we are prepared to accept compromises with professionalism in the name of improving the organizational factor in certain structures, this is totally inadmissible when they affect our national security and safety. The nuclear expert Yanko Yanev will not remain without a job. The sad facts are that the KMIAE is now without a competent leader and that the international institutions will restart their contacts with the committee from the start, and this could be very costly for our heating and light during the upcoming winter. God forbid that there will be further consequences.

Bulgaria: Former Nuclear Committee Chief on Dismissal

AU2608093096 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 24 Aug 96 p 8

[Interview with Yanko Yanev, former chief of the Committee for the Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Energy, by Ventsislav Petrov; place and date not given: "Personal Interests Could Be Behind My Dismissal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Petrov] Mr. Yanev, what were the reasons for your dismissal?

[Yanev] There are no reasons. I have been fired by Prime Minister Zhan Videnov on the basis of some Labor Code article, about which I know nothing. I understood from what people have told me that this was done in the interests of the work.

[Petrov] Could one find some political reasons?

[Yanev] It is difficult for me to interpret this. I am not a member of any party. I have always approached the issues in my area as a professional. I have always defended the position that no political bias must be evident in resolving the problems of developing our nuclear power supply. If, nevertheless, my dismissal has some political implications, this is an internal problem of the ruling party.

[Petrov] Did Prime Minister Videnov adopt the decision on our dismissal single-handedly?

[Yanev] No. The proposal was made in a memorandum of Energy Minister Rumen Ovcharov.

[Petrov] Were you invited to a preliminary conversation?

[Yanev] No.

[Petrov] You repeatedly criticized the fact that sufficient means have not been allocated for the safety of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant....

[Yanev] I adhere to the law. I claimed and continue to claim that the existing power plant can continue to function. However, when a nuclear state as Bulgaria constantly maintains that it does not have the money to guarantee the safety of this kind of power supply, then it does not have the right to develop it, let alone construct a second nuclear power plant. The fact that almost 50 percent of Bulgaria's power comes from nuclear reactors is being ignored somewhere.

[Petrov] This is precisely what you said to former Deputy Prime Minister Kiril Tsochev when the energy strategy until 2010 was being adopted.

[Yanev] I have not changed my opinion.

[Petrov] According to one version, you were dismissed because of your criticism of the IMF....

[Yanev] No one, including the IMF, has any right to dictate to us what and how to develop. This is my fundamental position. I know that we are expecting money from the IMF, but it must not speculate with our situation. One we were called the USSR's "province across the Danube." Are we now supposed to become "Washington's province"?

[Petrov] Do you think that you were dismissed as a result of external pressure because of your fundamental position on Kozloduy's First Reactor?

[Yanev] I do not know. I do not exclude the possibility that personal interests are behind by dismissal. My dismissal contradicts the Nuclear Safety Convention. The convention gives enough prerogatives to the nuclear energy regulating organ and excludes crude interference with its work.

[Petrov] Do you mean the personal interests of Minister Ovcharov or someone else?

[Yanev] No comment.

[Petrov] Is it true that you supported French companies that modernized the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant?

[Yanev] Nonsense. The Committee for the Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Energy never supported anyone. Our contacts are with the National Electricity Company, and it maintains contact with our and foreign companies. I have always believed that the modernization of Kozloduy's Fifth and Sixth Reactors must have an European, rather than a Balkan character.

[Petrov] What are your plans for the future?

[Yanev] I am 46 years old. I think that my knowledge and experience will find an application.

[Petrov] What are your wishes for Luchezar Kostov, who replaced you?

[Yanev] To remember that the nuclear safety is a common cause and not a party cause.

Bulgaria: Yanev Views Political Reasons for Dismissal

AU2608102396 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 24 Aug 96 p 7

[Interview with Yanko Yanev, former chief of the Committee for the Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Energy, by Eleonora Petrova; place and date not given: "I Did Not Succeed in Becoming a Nuclear Adviser to the Prime Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Petrova] Mr. Yanev, how do you explain the order for your dismissal?

[Yanev] One cannot explain such things. On Wednesday evening, I was asked to resign. The mechanism is rather simple—you are summoned and told to resign, otherwise you will be dismissed on the basis of some bad article. You say that you are not prepared to resign because you have your ethics and because you want to be told why you have to go. I told them that they can fire me because they govern the state at present. However, I am not the manager of a factory. I am known from Argentina to Japan. Why should I suddenly withdraw and decide to write my autobiography? I think that I can still be useful. However, I was handed an order on the basis of some Article 357 of the Labor Code, which contains the words "because of incompetence."

I was still thinking that it was done "in the interests of the service."

[Petrova] Nevertheless, someone requested your dismissal. Perhaps this is the person who controls your activity, your former subordinate, Minister Ovcharov?

[Yanev] He signed the order. The dismissal came as no surprise to me, because I understood from many different things that, in recent months, I have not been correctly accepted. At least four or five draft resolutions were submitted to the Council of Ministers in the last seven months. No decision was adopted. Obviously, there also are other reasons. The minister of energy cannot be responsible for the Committee for the Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Energy, because the one who issues safety permissions cannot be subordinated to the one who wants to keep the power plant working at any cost. This does not correspond to the international rules. The Nuclear Committee should be fully subordinate to Deputy Prime Minister Konakchiev.

The Committee for the Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Energy is one of the good Bulgarian institutions. It comprises trained people who are doing some of the work of the Energy Ministry. However, the circle of nuclear experts there is limited. It is an impossible situation when 50 percent of our power is produced by nuclear reactors, but there are only five nuclear experts in the ministry.

[Petrova] Are there political reasons behind your dismissal?

[Yanev] Since 1991, I have worked with five governments. The person in charge of Bulgaria's nuclear power supply must be the nuclear adviser to the prime minister. Unfortunately, I did not succeed in becoming his adviser because he did not want this. Such posts could have a certain political nuance, but I always thought that the leaderships of Bulgaria's nuclear power supply and nuclear safety must not have a political nature.

The Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant will not become safer because this or that political party is in power. If an accident occurs, no one will ask us whether we are members of the Business Bloc or the Alliance for Bulgaria. I am not a member of any political party or organization.

[Petrova] Should we expect a new international attack against Kozloduy?

[Yanev] This was not the right moment for a change. I assume that relations will deteriorate. The pressure against the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant has not ceased. Last year, we had problems with starting up the First Reactor. At present, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is applying pressure to stop the Sixth Reactor because we postponed the installation of new systems for the reactor. We want to see how they are functioning in the Third Reactor, and then install them in the Fourth. Bulgaria already is a part of the international nuclear community. The new chairman, Luchezar Kostov, will need three years to construct something—if he succeeds at all. The salary of the chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Energy is 24,000 leva. Is that the job's attraction? This institution has a national rather than a party character.

If a minister or the chief of the Committee on Tourism, on whom the privatization depends, are fired, people will say that commercial interests are involved. There are no such interests in our sphere, because we do not own anything except our offices.

[Petrova] Within one week, the government got rid of the technocrats. Are you one of the casualties?

[Yanev] August is the most convenient time for dismissals. A reaction on the part of parliament is impossible.

[Petrova] What are you doing now?

[Yanev] First, I will rest. Afterwards, I will do something related to the nuclear power supply and radiation safety. In addition, I lecture at the university.

Slovakia: New Foreign Minister Hamzik Not To Change Policy

AU2808151096 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 28 Aug 96 pp 1, 4

[Interview with newly appointed Slovak Foreign Minister Pavol Hamzik by Zuzana Kohutkova; place and date not given: "Without Changes in Foreign Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kohutkova] What direction do you foresee for Slovak foreign policy? Do you expect any changes in the foreign political orientation of the Slovak Republic?

[Hamzik] I do not believe that any changes in the orientation are necessary. We are taking the government policy statement as the point of departure, and it clearly states the priorities of the foreign policy of the Slovak Government and our orientation—which is integration. For both economic and political reasons, the membership in the EU and NATO in the first wave of new countries' admission is a priority. Another priority is good relations with neighbors. I believe that a lot has been done for these relations to be good. A basic criterion is continuity, i.e., building on what has been done under the ministry of my predecessor Schenk, whose work I hold in high esteem.

[Kohutkova] Despite your positive statements—just a little more specifically—will you in any way correct some steps of your predecessor?

[Hamzik] I have no idea what specific steps you have in mind. I came back from Bonn on Monday night, and I still am more or less submerged in the German-Slovak problems. Nevertheless, I do not see any reason for changes. The basic points of departure remain unchanged.

[Kohutkova] Official statements are one thing, and unofficial something else. It is rumored unofficially that Slovakia will not be included in the first wave of countries admitted into the EU. Now, as the new minister of foreign affairs, you can be specific about the chances of Slovakia to join the EU in the first wave.

[Hamzik] I believe it has such a chance. Personally, I am prepared to do anything in my power for this goal, and the same is true about the entire government, our ministry, and the foreign service. I know that there is interest on the German side in Slovakia being included in the first wave. I believe it would be a great mistake if this did not happen. For myself, I do not expect Slovakia to drop out of the first group of hopefuls.

[Kohutkova] There is something else. It is rumored—also unofficially—that Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl "does not like Mr. Meciar," and therefore the latter has problems with the date for a visit to Bonn. It has been talked about for a long time but it has never been confirmed.

[Hamzik] The interest in such a meeting has been confirmed, and the date is sought. I believe that it would be very bad if foreign policy were practiced on the basis of who does or does not like someone. I have been struggling for a long time against any personification and against such approaches. And I intend to continue doing so. There is more at stake here than whether a person does or does not like someone.

[Kohutkova] Speculations exist, however, that Slovakia was replaced in the first group of hopefuls by Slovenia. What could you say about this as ambassador to Germany, a country referred to as the driving force of the EU, and as the new foreign minister?

[Hamzik] I would only say that these are speculations. Germany is interested in our joining the EU and NATO.

In answers to questions by other correspondents, Pavol Hamzik said that the meeting between Chancellor Kohl and Prime Minister Meciar will take place before the end of the year but he does not want to run ahead of himself. He said that it is very important for the prime ministers and leading representatives of the EU countries and the associated countries to meet as often as possible. He added that from the supreme circles in Germany one always hears about the interest in the political and economic stabilization of Central Europe. These theses also are the basis for the bilateral relations between Slovakia and the German Federal Republic.

To the question of what he thinks of the speculations that he was appointed foreign minister to improve the image of Slovakia abroad, Hamzik replied that it is always necessary to improve the image of any country, and it is one of his main ambitions in the new office.

Slovakia: Daily Adopts Skeptical View of Government Changes

AU2808152696 Bratislava SME in Slovak 28 Aug 96 p 5

[Commentary by Marian Lesko: "Will Only the Ministers or Also the Government Change?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was reported on Monday [26 August] that the prime minister personally consulted the head of state on personnel changes in the ruling cabinet. On Tuesday the newspapers speculated about whom this concerned. Only in the four main dailies were the names of 12 government members mentioned. It can be said about each of them that there are reasons for his dismissal. In the end, three were chosen out of the many named—Ministers Ducky, Schenk, and Hudek. But even if the 12 of them were to go all at once, it cannot be expected that this would automatically bring about a change in the main thing—in government policy. Namely, this does not depend on the ministers, but on the government as it is led by the prime minister.

Education Minister Slavkovska agreed with the rectors at the beginning of May on what would be in Article 15 of the amendment to the university law. Regardless of this, the government approved a completely different, much worse article. Privatization Minister Bisak is the most "unknown" government member of recent decades, but he is not to blame for the fact that privatization is a dubious and almost criminal matter. Even if someone else were in his place, he could do nothing about the political decision that nine people nominated by the current coalition, who give the government the false alibi that it cannot be blamed for anything, make the decisions on privatization. The situation is slightly different as far as the interior minister is concerned. Like the majority of his colleagues, he did not run his department with any clear-cut concept. His "concept" was simple—to be at the disposal of the prime minister. The end of Hudek's career came about as a consequence of his attrition and not because his "concept" had fallen into disfavor. Otherwise, [Slovak Information Service Director] Ivan Lexa would also have to be dismissed. But since a minister who obeyed unconditionally has left the government, this can be viewed as a form of indirect self-criticism of the one from whom he received his orders...

It is obvious that changing three cabinet members and even their across-the-board replacement will not harm the country. However, only a change in government policy can help it—beginning with a review of the most blatant transgressions from the past and ending with them not being repeated in the near or more distant future. Until this change is made, it will be pointless for the prime minister to insist—as recently in his letter of congratulation to the U.S. President—that influential statesmen receive him as an acceptable partner. It would be advantageous for Slovakia if he were such a partner or if he were to become one.

Slovakia: Daily Assesses Cabinet Changes, Motives

AU2808134596 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 28 Aug 96 p 4

[Commentary by Milan Stanislav: "Castling Before the Offensive"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When, speaking in Trencianske Teplice on Saturday [24 August], Vladimir Meciar said that he did not know anything about the possible resignation of some ministers, that everything was different, and that more information would be released soon, he knew what he was saying. On Monday he visited the president with a proposal for dismissing three members of his government. In the end, everything was a little bit different, but that is the way of the world. According to the prime minister, Foreign Minister Juraj Schenk resigned for health reasons at his own request. Minister of Economy Jan Ducky, too, stepped down voluntarily. Hence, only Interior Minister Ludovit Hudek was dismissed from his post officially because of unsatisfactory results of the work of the Interior Ministry's Police Corps.

Despite the fact that he is undergoing treatment, Minister Hudek was not given the chance to resign for reasons of health. The question is why. After all, as recently as 23 May he enjoyed the full support of the prime minister and coalition MPs, who voted down a motion of no confidence in him, even though the opposition motion was based on dissatisfaction with the work of the ministry's police section and with Minister Hudek's stance on some specific issues. A possible explanation of Hudek's present dismissal could be the prime minister's intention to make an accommodating gesture in relation to the president and the opposition, in the expected endeavor to change the development of their relationship so far. However, the prime minister's statement that "changes in the field of security in the Slovak Republic do not end with the person of the interior minister and his replacement, it is only the first step; the changes will be extensive and sweeping" offers also another interpretation. Hudek was dismissed because the police do not work according to the prime minister's ideas. If we take into account the person of the new minister [Gustav Krajci, former secretary of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia] and the prime minister's well-known attitude toward the Interior Ministry, we can probably expect Meciar to make a personal contribution to the heralded transformation of the Police Corps. With all due respect for the new minister, and without trying to evaluate anyone in advance, his only experience with the Interior Department is from his approximately two years of work as district office chairman. However, even Hudek was praised by Meciar for his activities in the sphere of state administration.

As for the departure of Minister Schenk on health grounds, it seems to be logical for the prime minister to start his offensive to save Slovakia's integration ambitions with a new chief of diplomacy. Moreover, the new minister's last posting was in a country commanding great influence in the EU, the chancellor of which has been probably the most outspoken about Slovakia's poor prospects of entering the EU in this stage. Despite the fact that the prime minister characterized Schenk as the best performing and qualitatively best chief of diplomacy Slovakia has had to date, it needs to be said frankly that the results of his work do not attest to this. The treaty with Hungary, which did not exactly turn out well and was rejected by the coalition partners, was signed during his term and, leaving aside the aforementioned Kohl statement, Slovakia is also missing from the group of countries that will be provided with a U.S. loan to facilitate their entry into NATO.

Slovakia: Cabinet Changes Seen as Attempt To Improve Image

AU2808124196 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 28 Aug 96 p 10

[Commentary by Karol Wolf: "Meciar's Crusade Toward the West"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The dismissal of the Slovak interior, foreign, and economy ministers is another sign confirming that Vladimir Meciar indeed intends to "adjust" the domestic political situation for the sake of his country's admission into NATO and the EU. It is necessary to emphasize, however, that the Bratislava regime does not only hinge on its personnel, but, first and foremost, on its character, which, to a considerable extent, is determined by the prime minister.

Nevertheless, Meciar's most recent maneuvers are to be welcomed. In particular, the dismissal of the utterly compromised Interior Minister Hudek has to be regarded as a concrete step forward. The departure of the diplomatic amateur Schenk [former foreign minister], who is replaced by a career diplomat and the current Slovak ambassador to Germany, Pavol Hamzik, is merely confirmation of the attempt to improve the country's battered image.

Meciar's path toward the West—because this is what it is all about—is, however, still a long one. Slovakia's chances of being admitted into NATO alongside Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic did not lose steam because of the scandals surrounding the interior minister, the amateurishness of Minister Schenk, or the privatization insatiability of Minister Ducky [former economy minister]. Slovakia was dropped from the first group as a consequence of the behavior of the Meciar government as a whole, behavior that started in November 1994. So, a change in the West's view of Slovakia is conditional upon a real change in the view of the Slovak rulers on the basic attributes of democracy, which has to be manifested in specific policy.

In other words, Bratislava has to blot out all of the dreadful scandals that are crowned sovereignly by the kidnapping of Kovac Jr. It must abandon the law on the protection of the republic, which is reminiscent of totalitarianism, and steer clear of primitive nationalism, which has no business in a democratic Europe. There is still a great deal more of this nature and, in essence, this means a complete change in Meciar's political course to date.

Only when we understand the whole actual situation does it begin to be clear what the West really wants from the Slovak prime minister. This is nothing other than a demand for Meciar to stop being Meciar.

Slovakia: Commentary Views Interior Minister's Dismissal

AU2808141996 Bratislava SME in Slovak 28 Aug 96 p 4

[Commentary by Peter Toth: "The Minister Did the Kicking, the Prime Minister Did the Dismissing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Meciar also decided to dismiss Interior Minister Hudek after a year of unsuccessful investigation into the abduction abroad of M. Kovac Jr. It has to be said that this dismissal is somewhat surprising because, under the leadership of Hudek, the police have "managed" not to investigate the extremely sensitive affair, whose subsequent resolution could cause an earthquake in the highest political circles and, at least, lead to criminal proceedings against the prime minister's favorite, Ivan Lexa. On the other hand, there are several different reasons that logically explain Hudek's dismissal.

First of all, there is the suspicion that the former interior minister manipulated and thwarted the investigation into the kidnapping of the president's son. This reason is, however, merely theoretical because Lexa and Prosecutor General Valo should also quit their posts along with Hudek. And, in the final analysis, the "boss" should also step down. The second possibility is Meciar's dissatisfaction with the amateurish and inconsistent way that Hudek proceeded in covering up the violation of the law and various affairs. This explanation is more realistic. The third reason for Meciar's step, however, may also be the lack of confidence in the current ruling coalition that prevails in the police force thanks, in particular, to Hudek. His remark about the "idiot police officers" is merely a manifestation of his cultural level, but the mass departures into civilian life of experienced investigators and certain criminal police staff are alarming facts. Equally shocking were the methods with which Hudek implemented personnel changes in the investigation department and presidium of the Police Corps. To say nothing of the catastrophic deterioration in relations between the Interior Ministry and Police Academy. Therefore, it is not surprising that the prime minister—who, by the way, likes to depend on the security elements—has decided to improve his reputation among police officers and increase his influence in the force.

Ludovit Hudek once said that he would kick the investigator in the balls and that he would feel better about doing so. The prime minister dismissed him after he did this "job." Maybe, after the kicking, it was time for another method.

Slovakia: ZRS, SNS Said To 'Reappraise' Their Ministers

AU2808134896 Bratislava SME in Slovak 28 Aug 96 p 2

[Article by "(r)": "The ZRS and the SNS Will Also 'Consider' the Activity of Their Experts, Including the Ministers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bratislava—The changes in the government have not come as a surprise to the chairman of the Farmers' Party of Slovakia, Pavol Delinga, as his party is a coalition partner of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS]. He said yesterday on Slovak Television that the change of ministers in the Meciar government "proceeds from the coalition talks that took place before the summer during that minor coalition crisis." According to him, the other coalition parties will also "reappraise their experts," including the ministers. Jan Luptak, the leader of the Association of Workers of Slovakia [ZRS] and deputy chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, said that the government changes are an "internal party matter" for the HZDS. "This is none of our business," added Luptak. Slovak National Party [SNS] Chairman Jan Slota emphasized that he knew about the changes, especially that Ministers Hudek and Schenk "have health problems." "I do not see anything odd in this situation," stated Slota.

Slovakia: Smolec To Retain Influence on HZDS's Orientation

AU2808143696 Bratislava SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA in Slovak 28 Aug 96 p 3

[Statement by departing Chief Editor Jan Smolec: "Chief Editor's Reply to Peter Strelinger"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

Dear Peter!

Yesterday's opposition press published your objections to me. It is sad that you are formulating questions that you could have asked in person on the pages of opposition newspapers and on Radio Free Europe airwaves, that is, media that you have until now been sharply condemning as journalist. You want to know, among other things, where the money disappeared that had been collected from readers (almost 2 million korunas). The answer is simple. The money went into the production of the newspaper! In case you do not remember, the readers were sending us money to enable us to pay the printing plant's bills. [passage omitted]

Let me now say a few words regarding your objections to the new management of the editorial office. You know that I never cared too much about the past of journalists joining the editorial office. I only asked them whether they are ready to defend the colors of our editorial office in tough journalistic and pro-Slovak battles. Most of them have become good fighters for our cause. You only permanently want to screen people. I am glad that another two leading journalists, two professionals, have decided to join us. I am sure that, together with them, also other colleagues will reinforce the editorial office. As chairman of the Editorial Board, I will see to it that the present orientation of the newspaper does not change.

In conclusion, let me say only this much. Four days prior to my departure from the post of chief editor, I have to fend off unobjective and in a way mean accusations of a colleague whom I considered to be my friend.

[The information bloc published on the last page of the 28 August issue of SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA lists Jan Smolec as the daily's chief editor and Milan Rusko and Viera Urbanova as deputy chief editors. Until 27 August, the information bloc listed three deputy chief editors—Milan Rusko, Viera Urbanova, and Peter Strelinger.]

Hungary: Opposition Claims U.S. Election Influencing Policy

LD2808115396 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1000 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At a press briefing held by the Independent Smallholders, the party's opposition to the signing of the Hungarian-Romanian basic treaty was reiterated. Karoly Levay reports:

[Levay] The Smallholders' Party protests against what they said was the Romanian and the U.S. election campaigns being extended to Hungary, and the Hungarian Government—putting aside the true interests of Hungarians—participating in this campaign. Party chairman Jozsef Torgyan alleged that former President Jimmy Carter had come to Hungary to exert pressure on the Hungarian Government, in the interests of certain American political circles, over the signing of a Romanian-Hungarian basic treaty. More precisely, that the Democratic Party could use this, too, to underpin President Clinton's supposed foreign policy successes. The same is true for the Romanian election campaign, where the signing of the basic treaty would allegedly increase President Iliescu's chances.

According to Jozsef Torgyan, the same scenario was played out at the time of the Slovak-Hungarian basic treaty, when, he alleged, the Hungarian Government backed the campaign of French Prime Minister Balladur, ignoring Hungarian interests at that time, as well.

Hungary: Editorial Examines Government's Power Techniques

AU2808135996 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 28 Aug 96 p 7

[Editorial by Miklos Farago: "Power Techniques"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fact that the prime minister appointed a ministerial commissioner to reexamine the proposal for an energy price increase caused understandable indignation in the Hungarian Energy Office and among foreign investors. It is this office's job, among others, to prepare price proposals on the basis of careful calculations, and if a government commissioner is appointed (above or beside it), the office will see this as a gesture of mistrust. On the other hand, the foreign investors for whom an 8-percent profit and matching consumer prices were guaranteed have now become uncertain precisely about this guarantee.

Outsiders, like journalists, are cautioned by this case to refrain from taking a firm stance apart from simple understanding because, although the prime minister's gesture is surprising, the final outcome might be to our benefit—to the benefit of the energy-consuming citizens and of the national economy, too. Since the second, successful round of the privatization of the Hungar Hotels justified the prime minister's intervention in the first round, we citizens cannot be cautious enough.

Let us pretend that we are political scientists and let us raise the issue to a theoretical level. Let us see it as a symptom. We have an office to deal with certain issues, and unexpectedly another one is invented (above or beside it), and from there on this other one deals with the issues which the first one has dealt with before. Therefore, the case is part of power techniques and, as such, it is immediately obvious that it is not alone. We have a police, which also investigates economic type crimes, and then an investigation office is invented (above or beside?) to investigate economic crimes. We have an office to deal with privatization issues, then this is given a ministry and a minister (above?) to deal with privatization issues. We have a Parliament, political parties, and Hungarian minority organizations beyond the border, and then an international basic treaty is prepared (above their heads). We have an organization empowered with ownership rights, it makes a valid contract of sale, then a person comes into the story (above the organization) and declares the contract void. We have a minister without portfolio who is nominated for minister with portfolio (this happened yesterday), but to do this, the previous minister has to leave (from below) so the appointing person says the reason for departure is sickness. (However, as this diagnosis is not authenticated by a medical degree, the wrinkles on the naughty citizens' foreheads are turning into question marks). The list could be continued, but these examples will suffice to prove that these are indeed symptoms of power techniques.

It would not be difficult to evaluate these power techniques, but let us leave this to the readers. Let us be satisfied with an assumption: Future political historians might call our time a period of democratic wartime capitalism [hadikapitalizmus; paraphrasing of term wartime communism in early Soviet Union].

Hungary: Interior Minister To Improve Police Work

AU2808135396 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 28 Aug 96 p 5

[Correspondent's report: "Making Order at the Hungarian Police"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prevailing discipline and management of the Hungarian Police, as well as other reasons justify the intention of the interior minister to make use of his authority given by the law more firmly than before. At his news conference on 27 August, Interior Minister Gabor Kuncze declared that, for this, he needs the help of a deputy state secretary, who knows police life from the inside.

It is useless to seek political considerations behind the dismissal of Deputy State Secretary Sandor Nyiri: The only reason behind this dismissal is that the former attorney, who is an excellent theoretician, is not sufficiently aware of the internal conditions prevailing in the Hungarian Police—Gabor Kuncze pointed out. The interior minister blamed circumstances, rather than Sandor Nyiri, for the present situation. In Kuncze's view, the current crisis phenomena in the Hungarian Police are the result of a longer process, and the extended interim period, the emergence of market economic conditions, the narrow resources, and the deterioration in the overall crime situation in Hungary are all part of this process.

Therefore, Gabor Kuncze decided to make use of his authority deriving from the police law more firmly than before. Of course, he will continue to refrain from interfering in specific issues, but the relations between the Interior Ministry and the National Police Headquarters will be closer. As part of all this, Interior Ministry officials will regularly supervise the police heads, they will steadily follow the management of police, and they will also try to follow the internal affairs of the police. For this, the interior minister needs the assistance of a professional who knows the activity of the police from inside and is able to firmly contribute to the implementation of the ministry's endeavors. According to Gabor Kuncze, General Kacziba, who will occupy the position of deputy state secretary as a civilian employee in September this year, is suitable for the position also because of his knowledge and experience.

We also learned at the news conference that there is not yet any decision on whom to appoint as head of the Central Criminal Investigation Directorate. Gabor Kuncze declared that there is no need for political coordination in this matter because there can only be professional considerations in selecting the new head. Gabor Kuncze is expected to nominate the new head only at the end of this week.

B-H: Izetbegovic Addresses SDA Rally in Germany

AU2708133996 Sarajevo VECERNJE NOVINE (European edition) in Serbo-Croatian 26 Aug 96 p 4

["Extracts" from speech by Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, at an SDA preelection rally in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, on 24 August: "We Have Won Our Place in the Sun"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear brothers and sisters, dear countrymen, dear children of Bosnia.

In the first place, I must thank you for this warm and wholehearted welcome. I have brought you greetings from distant Bosnia.... I want to thank you on behalf of myself and my colleagues here. Except for Dudak [General Atif Dudakovic], commander of the famous 5th Corps [of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army], and Safa from Mostar [Safet Orucevic, deputy mayor of Mostar], whom you all know, the people with me this time are not well-known politicians. This time, I have with me ordinary but great people, those who are not talked about much, but who gave a lot and did a lot in the past battle for Bosnia. Those are Pljevljak, then Mutevelija, Lovac, Humo, Gasi, Salkunic, Kurtanovic, Muderis, Bajric, Music, Zukorlic [not further identified], and so on—all of them famous soldiers, most of them whom were wounded several times....

Let me start with the most important thing; that Bosnia has, thank God, endured and survived. And if it has survived the hell through which it has gone, then it will live for the next thousand years. And there is no power that can destroy it. We have definitely won the right to our place in the sun....

Bosnia has been defended, but unfortunately it is not completely free. In the fall of last year, we started a decisive offensive, but the iron hand of the world stopped us. The world wanted to have no defeated and no victors in Bosnia. That is why many areas have remained under the occupation of criminals, among them many areas from which you fled.... We concluded peace in Dayton. For the time being, that is rather the absence of war than it is real peace. Dayton is a compromise, and compromises are not justice.... If we sometimes regret that we signed the Dayton agreement, then we should remember those who have remained alive because of that peace. And those are thousands of our boys who would have been killed or become invalids in the continuation of the war. Because of them, that peace is good, because there has been too much death....

Now we have started the reconstruction of the ravaged country. We need every man, every woman, and every child. This is an opportunity for me to call you to come back. It will be hard in the beginning, but nobody will starve....

Germany offered you its hospitality and offered you its protection in the times that were worst both for you and for us. We are grateful to the German Government and to the great German people. We should show gratitude to the people of this country who did not differentiate between people in the times of trouble. In the meantime, while you are still in this country, be thankful. And the best thankfulness is to respect its laws....

We are a European country, but we do not want to forget our name, our faith, and our past. The civilized part of the world is not asking that of us, nor would we accept that.

The Bosnian woman is a story in herself. She is the true heroine of this war. Often all alone with the children, because the husband was at the front, in most cases it was she who maintained the family and endured the unendurable....

We are for peace. Do not ever hesitate if you vote or work for peace, because Bosnia needs peace. The war ravaged not only our lives and our homes, but also the very idea of Bosnia, which cannot survive without peace....

Therefore we will do everything to keep peace. The Dayton agreement is a balanced whole of various elements, agreed in difficult and long negotiations. One cannot choose: This provision suits me, so I will implement it, and the other one does not, so I will not implement it. And that is what the Serb side does, and the world still closes one eye to that fact. That will not be possible. I swear that that will not go on. The most important provision of the Dayton agreement, because of which we swallowed many bitter pills, is, for us, the one on the return of all people to their homes. In Dayton, the Serbs accepted this provision, and they will have to implement it or there will be no Serb Republic....

What we need and what we have planned in Bosnia:

First of all, we will fight for Bosnia to remain whole.... Further, we want Bosnia to be a democratic country, in the way Germany or Switzerland are....

We want to bridle the appetites of the neighboring countries, which have always—even today—had some aspirations towards our country.... In Croatia, things will change in the direction of democracy, and Serbia will not be able to forget that military and political defeat that it experienced in this last war for a long time. Croatia will not want to, and Serbia will not be able to continue with the policy of creating a greater state.

We will continue to build what has been destroyed and to heal the war wounds. The world has promised to help us, and they will do that if we work hard and help ourselves. In that respect, the beginnings are encouraging.... On the territory under the control of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, 400,000 people have already been employed, production has started slowly, the will of the people is extraordinary, and private initiative shows effects. Come to Sarajevo and see for yourself.... Salaries and pensions, which were meaningless this time last year, have grown five times in the meantime.... The dinar is stable; the exchange rate of 100 dinars for 1 German mark has been maintained for already a year now. The purchasing power is low, but there are no hungry, no beggars on the streets. This morning, I flew with our plane from Sarajevo airport, which has opened for commercial flights, and, somewhat earlier, the railway towards Mostar and the sea was also opened for traffic, after more than four years....

It is our ambition to have the best schools in the world and the best educated generation.... We will invest what we have in the investment that is more profitable than all others—in education.

Today, this is the preelection rally of the SDA [Party of Democratic Action], yet I have not told you anything about the party, nor do I think that is necessary. I have spoken about the Bosnia of today, and to talk about Bosnia means to talk about the party, and vice versa. Of course, I mean the essential things. Because everything that was done was done by the party, and everything that was omitted was omitted by the party...apart from those things that were the result of objective circumstances.

Therefore, before you give your vote, think twice, we have a long way and a lot of work before us. That work must be done. Thank you very much!

B-H: SDA Asks Diaspora To Suspend Voting

AU2808203496 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At President Izetbegovic's suggestion, the Main Electoral Headquarters of the Party of Democratic Action [SDA], has decided to suspend voting abroad until certain things in the latest report issued by Frowick's commission, particularly regarding the P-2 form, are clarified, and until consultations are held with other parties, Halid Genjac, president of the SDA Main Committee, said at today's extraordinary news conference. The SDA has called on its voters to refrain from casting ballots until further notice. If they have already filled out the ballots, they should not send them to voting centers. All SDA branches and clubs in 25 countries worldwide have been notified.

B-H: Abdic Criticizes SDA 'Dictatorship'

AU2808083196 Zagreb GLOBUS in Serbo-Croatian 23 Aug 96 pp 5-7

[Interview with Fikret Abdic, chairman of the Democratic People's Union, by Djurdjica Klancir in Rijeka; date not given: "The Hague Tribunal Will Surely Not Raise Charges Against Me: I Can Only Get the Nobel Peace Prize"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

[Klancir] Your party, the Democratic People's Union [DNZ], has registered itself for the elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina with 17,000 signatures. A record number. Where did you collect them? From the refugees from Velika Kladusa, or does your "party base" also contain others?

[Abdic] When I left Velika Kladusa, the SDA [Party of Democratic Action] leaders said that I was politically dead, and this number of signatures proves that I am politically very much alive. The SDA has introduced a military dictatorship and Stalinist methods of ruling in the entire Bosnia-Herzegovina, and particularly in western Bosnia. Alija Izetbegovic does things that were not done by Stalin or Enver Hoxha in the times of their worst tyranny! Izetbegovic clearly demonstrated his attitude towards people when he allowed the sufferings of the refugees from Velika Kladusa in Kuplensko [refugee camp]: The intention was to force those distressed people to return, because of the inhuman living conditions, and to subject themselves to Alija Izetbegovic! Now it is completely clear how the Bosnian authorities lied when they invited them to return. Do you remember that Kasim Trnka [Bosnian ambassador to Croatia] said that, after their return, the people would be allowed freedom of association and allowed to get engaged politically?

And now our followers are chased, and in Bosnia we can act only illegally.... So our party base consists of all those who have had enough of Alija's dictatorship, who want an economically prosperous and modern Bosnia. They wanted to reduce the number of people in Kuplensko in a perfidious way, in order to prevent us from collecting enough signatures. They were shocked when they saw how many people we can attract. But we didn't have only 17,000 signatures. In fact, we had 40,000 signatures with us, because we expected the SDA to start pressuring the OSCE and that we would have to prove our right to political work in Bosnia by showing the strength of the support for us.

[Klancir] You did not tell me where you collected those signatures? Were your party representatives in Velika Kladusa as well?

[Abdic] Our people entered western Bosnia despite all the threats. They were arrested, beaten. Even today, less than a month before the elections, our members throughout Bosnia do not dare to say that they are our members. The statute and the political program of the DNZ are illegal documents, and people who have them in their homes are in constant danger. It is wrong to believe that we are supported only by refugee Muslims; we are supported by many people in Bosnia, and that will be seen at the elections. Today, because of the dangerous SDA mafia, I still dare not say where the main DNZ centers in Bosnia are. But, it should be known: Although I myself still cannot go to Bosnia, that is where my party is!

The Dictatorship of the SDA [subhead]

[Klancir] Today you call the SDA regime a dictatorship and a mafia, whereas, before the war, you were its member.

[Abdic] What else could I call the SDA but dictators? In order for someone to get a passport in Sarajevo, he must sign up to join the SDA! Is that democracy? The people did not elect those who are presented as the SDA today. Those are all putschists.... I was removed by Ejup Ganic [vice president of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina] and Alija Izetbegovic, and straight away the majority of media started calling me "the former member of the presidency." And who were they to remove a legally elected member of the presidency? It was only when the war started that Bicakcic [SDA deputy chairman], Muratovic [prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina], and the like appeared. Where is Muratovic's economic program? Where was he while I was preparing the economic program? They needed war, and they insisted on it in order to hide their weaknesses. They are people to whom the power that had been given to the first SDA was transferred. And it was I, Fikret Abdic, who had brought power to the party! I was elected by the people, and the people still want me in power! That is why Alija Izetbegovic wishes to destroy me with all means. Because of that, I have no access to the Bosnian media, and when I appear in the Croatian media, they immediately see a major plot in that.

[Klancir] The Bosnian leadership objects that you registered your party in the second instance court in Mostar. Did you try to register your party in Sarajevo?

[Abdic] No. I knew what the circumstances were like. If I had tried to register the party in Sarajevo first, so much fuss would have been caused that, in the end, I would not be able do it in Mostar either.

[Klancir] Which voters do you count on? You mention the Muslims from western Bosnia?

[Abdic] The core of the party indeed consists of the Muslims from western Bosnia, because it was established in that region. But our members are also Muslims from all over Bosnia, and we also have Croats and Serbs. We are not narrow or burdened with nation and religion as the SDA is. We are an open party.

[Klancir] Do you not think that you have lost some potential Muslim voters because you registered yourself as a Croatian citizen?

[Abdic] On the contrary! In that way, I declared myself as a sincere partner of the Croats in constituting the federation. That does not mean that I have given up Bosnia, that I have fled from it, that I have asked for asylum.... I have dual citizenship like many citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

"I Have To Win the Elections!"

[Klancir] The problem of the wild refugee camp in Kuplensko was solved only a few days ago—some of your followers did not want to return to Velika Kladusa, although the Bosnian authorities guaranteed their safety, so they were moved to other refugee centers in Croatia. You constantly claim that the Bosnian regime is responsible for that refugee crisis, but you have never commented on the news that "leaked" from one of the closed sessions of the Croatian presidential council: On the contrary, the Croatian regime was ready to solve that problem with an armed action.

[Abdic] All the time, I was aware of the pressure on the Croatian regime. Izetbegovic's regime wanted to prove that it could solve the problem of western Bosnia by itself. It won the confidence of international institutions, and they put pressure on Zagreb.... Izetbegovic became a partner in the federation and every Croatian act of support for me and to my people was labeled as an obstruction of the federation. And the foreigners could not realize why the people gathered in Kuplensko did not want to listen to President Izetbegovic and yet they listened to my every word. The problem of western Bosnia is too complicated for them. But I must say that the Croatian authorities helped those unlucky people. I do not deny the fact that the refugee center was a problem for Croatia. Maybe armed action was mentioned as one of the possibilities at a political meeting, but I do not believe that the decision was made that the Croatian police or army should force my people to go back to Velika Kladusa.

[Klancir] Your good connections with some people from the Croatian political leadership are often mentioned:

Your office in Zagreb is visited by Vladimir Seks [vice chairman of the Croatian Chamber of Representatives], Bosiljko Misetic, Hrvoje Sosic [not further identified]....

[Abdic] Why would it be important whom I see? I do not want to talk about names. That is, simply, not important. All the time, SDA agents want to create the impression that I have some mysterious ties with the Croatian political leadership, and that is nonsense. [passage omitted]

[Klancir] Is it true that, thanks to the support of some Croatian politicians, you managed to establish a special relationship with the Croatian television? It is a fact that your project of the Autonomous Province of Western Bosnia was positively presented in the most important information programs, and that today you still get time and status in the main news program that the Croatian opposition does not have.

[Abdic] No, I have no privileged treatment at the HRT [Croatian Radio and Television]. And why would the Autonomous Province of Western Bosnia not be presented positively? Western Bosnia resisted the war, and the HRT correspondents have shown that. There were no tricks there. Of course, they called me as a guest on some programs, because, as a peacemaker, I took part in the conference in Geneva. Or, do you believe that I needed some special recommendation in order for my protest to OSCE because of the charges raised in Bihac to be reported? That is information, and somebody in the HRT probably thought that it should be reported.

[Klancir] How do you comment on the fact that President Tudjman was always well-meaning towards you? Did you have frequent contacts with him?

[Abdic] It is quite natural that, as the real winner of the elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina, I should contact many politicians. I respect President Tudjman as a statesman. But do not expect me to flatter him with nice words. That is all I can tell you. [passage omitted]

[Klancir] The higher-level court in Bihac accused you of raising a rebellion against the legal armed forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and, last week, they also accused you of war crimes.

[Abdic] It is quite clear that this is nothing but a political game and a wish to eliminate me from the elections. Besides, they also want to confiscate my property. They are no longer interested in my family property—they have plundered and burnt everything they could. Even the house of my deceased parents.... They are interested in "Agrokomerc" [company led by Abdic before the war], a company that, in the time of prosperity, was valued at $5 billion. Besides, they expected that the OSCE would accept that accusation as reason enough to prevent my participation in the elections. Fortunately, the OSCE did not accept that. [passage omitted]

[Klancir] You believe that you will win the elections?

[Abdic] Absolutely. My political and economic program will win. [passage omitted]

[Klancir] What are you, as a businessman, doing in Croatia at the moment?

[Abdic] I am maintaining the business, in order to be able to revitalize business in Bosnia as soon as possible. And I am not bankrupt. I gave more to my people in Kuplensko than the UNHCR did. Despite everything, Babo [Abdic's nickname] still knows how to make money. [passage omitted]

B-H: HDZ's Zubak Says Croat Municipalities Are Necessity

LD2808193096 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Croatian Democratic Union [HDZ] of Bosnia-Herzegovina held its main election rally for the Tuzla region in Tuzla yesterday evening. Our correspondents Visnja Misin was there.

[Begin recording] [Misin] [Passage omitted]

[HDZ Deputy Chairman Kresimir Zubak] We have obtained full support for the political needs of the people of this area—to organize themselves in one or two Croat municipalities. It is a constitutional right which no one can take away from this nation, which will implement it in a democratic way, in a referendum, and on the basis of this will initiate a legal procedure for adopting a law on establishing such a municipality. This is a necessity and a need. We all understand that without such municipalities, in which the Croat people would have a majority, we could hardly count on our survival, not just here but also in other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted] [end recording]

B-H: Federation Leaders Urge Facilitation of Refugees' Return

LD2908115896 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 29 Aug 96

[Report by correspondent Andjelko Perincic from Sarajevo]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kresimir Zubak and Ejup Ganic, president and vice president respectively of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, have issued a joint appeal to all county and municipal leaders to allow all refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes. It is stressed in the appeal, also signed by Soeren Jessen

Petersen, the UNHCR High Commissioner's special envoy, that officials throughout the Federation have been instructed to take urgent measures to facilitate the return of the refugees and displaced persons. The appeal is obviously designed to enable as many refugees and displaced persons as possible to return before the elections. [passage omitted]

B-H: SBiH Backs Call for Refugees To Boycott Election

AU2808140796 Paris AFP in English 1353 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Sarajevo, Aug 28 (AFP)—The two most popular parties among Moslem voters called Wednesday [28 August] on their refugee supporters abroad to boycott early polling, according to official statements.

In a statement released in Sarajevo, the main ruling SDA [Party of Democratic Action] party of President Alija Izetbegovic "called upon its voters not to fill out ballot papers until further notice."

The boycott call was echoed by Bosnia's Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina (SBiH), headed by the country's former prime minister Haris Silajdzic, the second most popular party among Moslems. It urged "all citizens of Bosnia who will vote abroad not to participate in the polls." [passage omitted]

Both Izetbegovic's party and the SBiH called for further clarification of the election process in the light of the OSCE decision taken after mounting criticism of voter registration manipulation. [passage omitted]

There was no response from officials with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), who said they had seen the statements but had no official contacts on the matter.

Both parties said they wanted further clarification on the status of voters registered using the so-called P-2 form, abuse of which led to Wednesday's postponement.

This form allows voters to register in towns where they do not currently live. The Bosnian Serbs saw the loophole and pressured many of their refugee voters to register for towns in territory it controls where there was a small prewar Serb population.

Both the SDA and SBiH were especially critical of the P-2 forms, which open the way for the Bosnian Serbs to cement their control over certain key towns. The SDA and Bosnia's main Croat party were also criticised for abusing the rule, but to a lesser extent. [passage omitted]

B-H: 'Minimum Preconditions' Necessary To Hold Elections

MS2208123596 London THE EUROPEAN in English 22-28 Aug 96 p 9

[Article by Nicholas Hinton, president of the International Crisis Group, the multinational organization monitoring the lead-up to the Bosnian general election: "An Ethnic Cleansers' Charter"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With less than four weeks to go before the Bosnian elections, the governments that dictate international policy towards Bosnia-Herzegovina appear determined to steamroller ahead.

At this critical juncture in Bosnian history, it is imperative to understand the consequences of this approach: the Dayton accord may well be remembered not as the peace agreement which brought to an end to the war, but as an ethnic cleansers' charter.

No serious look at the climate in Bosnia-Herzegovina, no matter how positive the spin, can deny that electoral conditions are totally unacceptable, that voter registration abuses are rampant, and that proceeding with the vote will expedite partition of the country.

Indicted war criminals remain at large and continue to exert influence behind the scenes. The repatriation of refugees has not begun. There is no freedom of movement to speak of and only the ruling parties have any freedom of expression.

Having seen that the international community was determined to ram through elections irrespective of the conditions, the three ruling parties, themselves ostensibly responsible for ensuring that preconditions for elections have been met, have concluded there is no need to do anything. Instead, they have quite naturally focused on engineering their own reelection, helping conditions to deteriorate in the process.

Abuses of voter registration have brought the entire electoral process into such disrepute that they are, of themselves, sufficient grounds to postpone the elections.

The architects of the Dayton accord intended elections to contribute to the reintegration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Bosnians were thus expected "as a general rule" to vote in the municipalities in which they lived in 1991. Voting elsewhere was to be the exception. Displaced persons wishing to vote in the municipality in which they currently live and not where they were living in 1991 had to apply to local electoral commissions and fill out a so-called Form 2.

Had displaced Serbs chosen of their own free will to switch their vote from the Federation to Republika

Srpska, this might have been an acceptable outcome. However, the Bosnian Serb authorities systematically used the distribution of humanitarian aid to pressure them into registering to vote in Republika Srpska and not in their prewar municipalities. As a result, more than 240,000 displaced Serbs, many obliged to present completed Form IIs just to claim food rations, have had to turn their backs on their homes.

Through rigging the registration process, the Bosnian Serb authorities have been able to act with impunity. Despite receiving a first report into the abuse of humanitarian aid as early as 13 July, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the intergovernmental agency supervising the elections, chose not to react until after the process had been completed. When the OSCE did finally respond, it fined the ruling Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) a paltry $25,000—less than the OSCE had given the SDS to help finance its campaign.

This timidity is attributable largely to the OSCE's dependence on the local authorities who are organising the elections and whose cooperation is critical to the event. The OSCE appears unwilling to take any serious measures against abuses by the ruling parties lest they order local electoral commissions to withdraw their labour and thus prevent the elections taking place.

If elections do go ahead as scheduled, the 14 September poll is likely to be marred by violence, irregularities and disenfranchised voters. The election timetable has been extremely rushed and the scale of the operation beyond the resources of the OSCE.

As many as 300,000 Bosnians living outside the country have not registered to vote by absentee ballot and will have to return home on the day not to be disenfranchised. Meanwhile, a further 300,000 displaced persons within Bosnia-Herzegovina will have to cross former confrontation lines to return to the municipalities in which they were living in 1991 if they intend to exercise their democratic rights.

Critically, the international community will be giving up much of the little leverage it now possesses in Bosnia-Herzegovina. For example, sanctions imposed against rump Yugoslavia and Republika Srpska under Security Council resolution 1022 of November 1995 are currently suspended and may be re-imposed without a new resolution. They will be permanently lifted, however, ten days after elections and, given the Russian veto in the Security Council, will subsequently be well nigh impossible to re-introduce.

Worse still, in the absence of even minimal conditions for free and fair elections, the nationalists who brought Bosnia-Herzegovina to bloodshed in the first place will be handed a fresh "democratic" mandate. Since they have no intention of implementing any of the Dayton agreement, their victory will undermine the chances of somehow keeping the Bosnian state intact and ratify the "ethnic cleansing" carried out in the war.

At the same time, candidates elected by absentee ballot to areas from which they were once expelled will have little chance of taking up their seats.

We already have a precedent. That is the divided Croat-Muslim city of Mostar, where elections took place on 30 June and nationalists who had seized power during the war received a "democratic" mandate. Since then the city council has failed to function properly.

Those who do not like the results of the elections, the irregularities or the concept of the institutions themselves have it in their power to obstruct simply by refusing to meet. Neither Bosnia nor the international community can expect several dozen rounds of late-night negotiations, or the constant intervention of President Bill Clinton as was required to secure some compromise in Mostar.

The decision to ram through elections is driven by the calendar, not by the climate on the ground. This is a flawed approach and the consequences for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina of holding elections are too high to be dictated by a date fixed in stone.

There is an alternative. Instead of rushing the elections, so as to have them completed within nine months of Dayton, they should be postponed and proceed only when minimum preconditions have been met. The OSCE should heed the spirit of the Dayton accord.

The first step must be to put indicted war criminals on trial. Marginalising them or shielding them from view is simply not enough; they must be sent to The Hague. Repatriation must have begun before elections proceed. The benchmark for this should not be the number of returnees but the establishment of relatively secure conditions that enable the process to begin.

Freedom of movement must be created. That will only be when group and individual visits are possible between one entity and another, when candidates can cross the inter-entity boundary line (IEBL) and campaign without fear of intimidation, when telephone lines are established between the entities and when I-FOR checkpoints are no longer required along the IEBL.

Freedom of expression must be established. International projects to open up the media in Bosnia must be given time to work. The alternative TV-IN network, which will be lucky to begin broadcasting before 14

September, must be given at least three months to gain credibility and viewers.

On 25 June, in his speech giving elections the go-ahead, Flavio Cotti, the OSCE chairman-in-office, warned: "If no actions are undertaken right now against the indicted war criminals, it can be taken for granted that the elections will very quickly give way to developments diametrically opposed to those which they were expected to yield. There exists the most serious danger that they then degenerate into a pseudo-democratic legitimisation of extreme nationalist power structures and ethnic cleansing.... Under no conditions whatsoever...should we permit such a development to ensue." It is high time to heed Cotti's warning.

B-H: Canberra Embassy Protests OSCE Exclusion of 3,000 Voters

AU2708113696 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 27 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Of about 10,000 Bosniaks who live in Australia, more than 3,000 have been informed by the Vienna OSCE office that they do not have the right to vote at the September elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The OSCE has mentioned the absence of these Bosniaks from the electoral rolls as the reason for this decision.

It is obvious that an attempt is being made to legalize the ethnic cleaning of Bosniak towns, Fuad Zigic, Bosnia-Herzegovina ambassador to Canberra, said. He stressed that it is obvious that these citizens are being stripped of the democratic right to vote through someone's game and tricks.

The Embassy of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Australia has informed the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina about this incident. There are (?indications) that this game will continue and that it will prevent the Bosniaks in exile from voting, Zigic said.

B-H: OSCE's Frowick Issues Statement on Municipal Elections

AU2808203296 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of the OSCE Provisional Electoral Commission's [PIK] decision on postponing municipal elections, Robert Frowick, OSCE mission head for Bosnia-Herzegovina, today issued a special public statement:

The PIK met today to examine the advisability of continuing municipal elections despite the misuse of rules and regulations on a large scale. Electoral guidelines derived from the General Framework Peace Agreement were meant to make it possible for individual voters to decide themselves where they want to live and vote. However, these guidelines have been seriously distorted at the municipal level. In my capacity as chairman I have therefore decided that it is not feasible to hold municipal elections on 14 September when cantonal and higher-level leaderships are to be elected, Robert Frowick says. The General Framework Agreement envisages elections of institutions of power at higher levels, but it points to the distinction for new municipal authorities where it explicitly says that they should be elected only if that is feasible. The Commission discussed the fact that many difficulties in the electoral process lie in the discord over municipalities such as Brcko, Srebrenica, Bihac, Bugojno, Mostar, and Stolac, as well as a large number of other municipalities throughout the country. We have been expressing concern about this situation, Ambassador Frowick says and adds the following:

On 19 August, that is, eight days ago, I made a statement in connection with serious problems currently taking place in eight municipalities and warned that electoral results there may not be accepted as valid. Elections at higher levels, that is, for the House of Representatives of Bosnia-Herzegovina, for the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, the House of Representatives of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation, the Peoples Assembly of the Serb Republic [RS], the RS Presidency, and cantonal structures, do not include the same conditions. They will be held as planned.

Shortly after this, in a few days, the Contact Group and the sides that have produced the General Framework Agreement, the OSCE high representative, as well as other international organizations included in the peace process may use the coming time that we may have to improve prospectives for municipal elections in a few months.

B-H: Parties React to Postponement of Local Elections

AU2808134396 Sarajevo NTV99 Television in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 27 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Let us hear some reactions on the postponement of the local elections:

The Executive Committee of the Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina believes that the postponement of the local elections only delays the negative consequences resulting from the manipulation of the P-2 Form registration. These negative consequences can only be annulled by the withdrawal of this form. According to the Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina, if the elections are to be democratic and fair, the registration with the P-2 Form has to be revoked, and thus the conditions envisaged by the Dayton agreement secured.

The Joint List of Bosnia-Herzegovina fully supports this decision only if this means that the P-2 Form is going to be withdrawn, that is, if it is reduced to the Dayton level—Nada Idrizovic, chief of the press service of the Joint List, said. She said that the Joint List was expecting clarification of the elections at other levels, and that in their view it would be more acceptable if the P-2 Form was altogether revoked.

The Liberal Party of Bosnia-Herzegovina believes that this decision has its good and bad sides. The good side is that this gives a chance for the return of a large number of refugees and displaced people [words indistinct] P-2 Form, which could have had unpredictable consequences for the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and also eases the general atmosphere before the elections. This also deprives those who want to boycott the elections of their arguments. The good side is also the fact that the OSCE mission has expressed its readiness to stay for the local elections, even though they are not obliged to do so according to Dayton. The bad side of this decision for the Liberals is the legalization of the existing situation, particularly in the Federation, where the refugees are expected to start returning. The fact that the current authorities will remain in power, even in the municipalities that have been proclaimed unconstitutional, and another winter, gives rise to the question how many people will want to return to the previous homes.

The Civic Democratic Party [GDS] of Bosnia-Herzegovina supports Ambassador Frowick's decision to postponed the municipal elections, expressing regret that the shortcomings have not been dealt with earlier. We have a statement by GDS Chairman Ibrahim Spahic:

[Begin Spahic recording] The key is to implement the Dayton constitutional arrangements fully in both the Federation and the Serb Republic, and thus to get it over with once and for all so we do not have to listen any more to the delusions about the exclusive character of the Serb Republic, its sovereignty, and so on. The key lies in the respect of the rules of the game as determined by the OSCE and the international community themselves. [end recording]

B-H: Parties' Comments on OSCE Decision To Delay Elections

AU2808151196

[FBIS Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian on 28 August carries in its regular 1300 GMT newscast several reports on party reactions to the OSCE decision to postpone municipal elections in the country.

The Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina [SBiH] called on Bosnian citizens voting abroad not to go to the polls until "all conditions regarding the elections are completely clarified."

The Social Democratic Party [SDP] of Bosnia-Herzegovina supported the OSCE decision to postpone municipal elections "providing that the reason for the postponement is to declare invalid the P-2 form," SDP President Gradimir Gojer said at today's press conference.

The Patriotic Party of Bosnia-Herzegovina assessed the OSCE decision to postpone municipal elections as "yet another trick and deception aimed at diverting attention from the essence of the problem, and creating the illusion that a concession was made due to the great pressure exerted by the Bosnian public." The party calls on "citizens and Bosnian patriots not to participate in elections." The party also called for a plebiscite which would decide on elections.

B-H: Parties, OSCE Respond to Election Postponement

AU2908124996 Sarajevo NTV99 Television in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 28 Aug 96

[Report by an unidentified NTV99 correspondent in Sarajevo on 28 August from the "Oko 22" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] The OSCE yesterday decided to postpone the local elections. What are the political aims behind this decision?

[Vladimir Pogarcic, Croatian Democratic Union] It is very clear, at least to us, what the aims and consequences of this decision are. These are to extend the illegitimate situation that exists at the local level, to continue in the direction of the disintegrative processes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, to bring into question the validity and legitimacy of the elections at the higher levels with the lack of the broader election base that would have been provided by the local elections, and to help directly all those both in the parties in the Federation and particularly in the Serb Republic to invalidate Bosnia-Herzegovina as a possible community of three constituent nations in its Dayton framework.

[Zdravko Grebo, Joint List] If I were to guess what the political aims behind this decision are, then I would say that the international community—since we are under a kind of protectorate and occupation—the international community wants to right all the wrongs it has been doing within six months, and to contribute, if possible, to the first postwar elections being an expression of the political will of all the Bosnia-Herzegovina nations.

[Rasim Kadic, Liberal Party] The postponement of the local elections presents in a way the salvation of the general elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina, while the entire problem with the P-2 form is only delayed for another time. This just gives us false hope, an illusion that something will be changed over the next five to six months. Basically, this move to save the elections through the postponement of the local ones will have very serious consequences for us in the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in particular, and throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina in general.

[Salih Foco, Liberal Bosniak Organization] First of all, this has been done to make another step from the state of war to the state of peace, and to create conditions for normal elections. Also, it is to provide the freedom of political activity, and to create the conditions for an economic recovery, for people to start living off the fruits of their labor.

[Correspondent] We asked the same question in the OSCE. Are there any political aims behind the decision to postpone the local elections?

[Kenneth Scott, OSCE mission deputy chief, in English with passage by passage Serbo-Croatian translation] No, I think that the decision to postpone the elections at the municipal level was taken before any party particularly demanded that we should do so. It was taken really as soon as we saw the results of the refugee registration, and it was clear to us that we would have to do something to ensure the credibility of the most important elections. Then after we had taken that decision we were careful to consult with and inform all the parties concerned before we actually put it to the Provisional Election Commission and announced it. But it was taken primarily by the OSCE in the first place, and then approved by the Provisional Election Commission.

B-H: Daily Praises OSCE, SDA for Delaying Local Elections

AU2808135496 Sarajevo DNEVNI AVAZ in Serbo-Croatian 28 Aug 96 p 3

[Commentary by Djuro Kozar: "From an Abyss Toward a Chance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The exclusive news published by DNEVNI AVAZ three days ago has been confirmed: The elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina at the municipal level have been postponed and will most probably be held in the spring of 1997. In a delicate situation created through the manipulation of refugee voters and the famous P-2 form in the Serb Republic, which posed a danger that the elections in a great number of municipalities could legitimize ethnic cleansing, this outcome simply had to happen.

The person who takes the greatest credit for this decision, Ambassador Robert Frowick, has shown that he is a flexible diplomat, taking into consideration the well-founded objections and realistic consequences. Prior to making the final decision, he carried out consultations with officials in both entities, listened to their opinions, and then elaborated everything, together with the Provisional Electoral Commission. He remained consistent in the attitude that the elections, no matter how important they are, should not be carried out at any price or at all levels, by which he has given a new chance to Bosnia-Herzegovina, preventing an imminent legalization of ethnic cleansing and manipulation in the Serb Republic.

According to many views, with this postponement, Frowick made a maximal effort to sanction all that we refer to as "the lack of the elementary conditions for the elections." Because, whether we like it or not, in Bosnia-Herzegovina at present, there is still no freedom of movement, the majority of the media are impenetrable for different ideas and opinions, and pressure is being exerted on voters.... These and other circumstances, of course, jeopardize the elections for entity assemblies and the Chamber of Representatives of the Bosnia-Herzegovina parliament, but it is still considered that, at this level, the elections will produce fewer politically detrimental consequences than at the level of the municipal bodies of authority.

The Serb side, according to Biljana Plavsic and Aleksa Buha, opposes the postponement. The question arises: What will happen if the Serbs remain persistent and carry out their elections at the municipal level on 14 September? Judging from his statements on Tuesday, Frowick is not paying any attention to this. Even if the SDS [Serbian Democratic Party] does that, it will not be of major importance.

The postponement of municipal elections makes another question topical: What will happen with the OSCE and IFOR mandates in Bosnia-Herzegovina, since their duration is contingent upon election activities? Now that the municipal elections have been postponed, it is logical that the OSCE mandate will be extended until spring next year. The same possibility of an extended mandate could also apply to IFOR. Without its force, it is difficult to envisage a successful completion of the local elections.

Given the new details, it appears logical that the Provisional Electoral Commission will reconsider the tenability of the P-2 form.

Finally, this ought also to be told: Regardless of the fact that some parties will try to score points for themselves by presenting Frowick's decision as their own, the decision was most influenced by the resolute attitude of the Party of Democratic Action [SDA]. Apparently, by its threat to boycott the elections and by urging the Assembly of Bosna-Herzegovina and other state bodies of Bosnia-Herzegovina to take action, the biggest and the most influential party of the Bosniak people seems to have pulled a critical string in its attempt to save Bosnia-Herzegovina.

B-H: Commentary Condemns 'Brutal' Western Policy

AU2808184796 Sarajevo JAVNOST (Bosnian Serb) in Serbo-Croatian 24 Aug 96 pp 8-9

[Commentary by Kolja Besarovic: "The OSCE Kadis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the advent of 14 September, the date of the first supposedly democratic and free elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina as conceived by Dayton, the western occupation forces are intensifying their often brutal pressure against the Serb Republic. Although this pressure is formally justified by the "need to implement the Dayton agreement in full" and by "efforts to enable equal conditions for all the parties and presidential candidates to present their programs," it is obvious that the civilian and military implementors of the will of the U.S.-dominated international community are not even attempting to conceal their anti-Serb schemes and their obvious bigotry in treating the officially equal sides in the Bosnian peace process and the elections.

Owing to the stipulations of the Dayton agreement, the smug representatives of the occupation institutions, who might also be called well paid executors of Washington's Bosnian program, have been granted powers only comparable to a Turkish kadi [powerful judge in Ottoman times], which means that they have the simultaneous right to prosecute and try the disobedient Serb "raja" [term used to denote the common people during Ottoman rule in the Balkans] (or, to use a more modern term, the "extremist Serb nationalists because of their unacceptable separatist aims"). These campaigns to "administer justice" and intimidate the "raja" and their "princes" are being carried out with the full cooperation of the OSCE kadis and the modern Bosnian vizier [Ottoman minister or governor] Carl Bildt (whose "Bosnian ideas" are very close to those of the former Austro-Hungarian Governor Benjamin Kalai). This, however, does not mean that the campaigns of the civilian occupation authorities are not intermittently supplemented by elite NATO-IFOR "askars" [Ottoman infantrymen]. The latest example of the vandalistic theft of huge quantities of ammunition and weapons from an officially registered Serb Republic army munitions depot in Margetici clearly confirms the thesis that the most important task of IFOR (NATO) in the "Bosnian operation" is not to establish a stable peace, but permanently provoke, intimidate, and militarily weaken the Serb side.

Obstacles

Of course, it is no secret that the essentially risky decision to push IFOR onto center stage was in some ways forced by the development of the pre-election situation (which obviously, as far as the mood of the voters in the Serb Republic is concerned, is not in accordance with the scenario planned by the West). It would simply be much more convenient for the Washington masters if the entire anti-Serb assignment in the Bosnian operation were carried out without excessively exposing the military, in other words, by using POLITICAL AND DEMOCRATIC METHODS IN THE ELECTION PROCESS. [capitalization as published]

In order to accomplish the main objective of the peace process, the defeat of the "hardline" Serb nationalist parties and, above all and most unseemly of all, the Serb Democratic Party, Clinton's "Bosnian kadis" are not only attempting to use various procedural tricks and different forms of coercion to weaken the position of these undesirable nationalists in the elections, but they are also attempting to exploit the media in the Serb Republic to sway the awareness and political preferences of the voters. Since the main obstacle to carrying out their plans are the government media (television, radio, GLAS [SRPSKI], JAVNOST, [Pale Serb] OSLOBODJENJE, and SRNA), there is not a day that goes by in which we do not hear some of the OSCE judges or members of Bildt's "vizier team" hurling accusations against the "nationalistic" or even "Stalinist" (Bildt's epithet) government media and criticizing the government media for their "unequal treatment of members of the political opposition parties running in the elections."

In principle, we agree with the OSCE request that all parties whose representatives are running in the elections should have completely equal access to the media. There is no doubt that one of the main preconditions for fair and democratic elections is that all candidates can freely inform the voters about their political programs, and in spite of constant anti-Serb pressures, the presence of occupation troops, and the administrative elimination of the most likely presidential candidate, which means that the elections are neither fair nor democratic, the electronic media (radio and television) as well as the daily newspapers of the Serb Republic, have been fulfilling such a requirement for the last two months through special programs in which various candidates debate their political views. On the other hand, not only the Belgrade media, but also the supposedly unbiased news programs that are prepared and presented to listeners on the territory of Yugoslavia by the OSCE's bosses (e.g. the one-hour news broadcast called "Free Europe"), reserve time only to present so-called moderate and reasonable political parties and leaders and say good things about them, while the nationalist parties, and above all the SDS, are mentioned only with negative connotations.

Lobotomy

Such an unequal treatment of the parties, such a policy of double standards, does not worry the organizers of the elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but they get really angry, in fact they go out of their minds, when they see a photograph of Radovan Karadzic or even hear his name mentioned in public, or even in private for that matter. After such "provocations" we usually hear threats from the "top kadi," Robert Frowick or one of his colleagues that the SDS will be "banned from taking part in the elections because of its drastic violation of the elections rules" (they threaten the media with penalties), because according to the expert interpretation of the "elections bosses," the mere mention of the name or anything else having to do with the anathematized leader of the Serb national movement in Bosnia-Herzegovina has a negative effect on the voters' opinions and decisions.

This explanation alone clearly shows that the official organizers of the elections and those who give them theeir orders do not care about implementing free and democratic elections at all. On the contrary, through brutal pressure, bans and penalties, they are attempting to lobotomize the people of the Serb Republic, not only to remove all recollection of the undesirable symbol of resistance (Radovan Karadzic), but also to erase their entire national collective memory. After that, according to the architects of this operation, the people will be transformed into an amorphous mass of obedient slaves, ready humbly to carry out the commands of the chiefs of the new world order, whose sinister McLuhanesque "global village" essentially differs very little (except in the method of achieving its goal) from Hitler's monstrous "1000-Year Reich."

It is in the context of such ambitious (perhaps even paranoid) plans to "enlighten" the Serb voters, which, to judge by the "constituency" and the forced activity of the IFOR "askars," is appearing to be increasingly less achievable, that we need to observe the critical relationship of the OSCE kadis and Bildt's "vizier team" toward the government media in the Serb Republic. If, instead of telling the truth and representing national and government interests, the government media would only agree to denounce Radovan Karadzic and the Serb "separatist idea" and support the "progressive projects" of the Western occupying forces and their domestic collaborators, who are conducting the "peaceful reintegration (extra-Dayton unitarization) of Bosnia-Herzegovina," then there is no doubt that the implementors of Washington's anti-Serb policy, would immediately consider such government media as "democratic" and "open."

Goals

It would have to be clear that the already-mentioned Carl Bildt does not call the government media of the Serb Republic Stalinist because they support Bolshevik ideology. What bothers him and what he finds is similar to the Soviet press from the period of Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili [Stalin] is the fact that the government media of the Serb Republic (with full acknowledgement of the differences that are the result of the objectively unequal position of the once great Soviet Union and today's small, not to mention occupied, Serb state) firmly defend the national interests and frustrate the perfidious plans and pitfalls of the hostile Western powers. In that sense, regardless of certain deficiencies, the Stalinist Soviet press was successful and that is why Bildt's comparison with those who first managed to repel Hitler (there is no doubt that Bildt and Frowick would punish PRAVDA and the SKP(b) [expansion unknown] because of the texts of Ilja Erenburg) and then also to ward off U.S. "cold war" attacks, should primarily be taken as a compliment.

It is not surprising that, in handing out assignments regarding the "Bosnian business," the Washington bosses chose the OSCE to organize and implement the elections. We would like to remind our readers that the OSCE was initially called the CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, whose charter members, in addition to the countries of the old continent, were the United States and Canada), but that after the fall of the Soviet Union, it not only changed its name, but was given the mandate to strengthen its key activities in protecting those famous human rights, as well as the rights of national (of course, threatened) minorities. Hiding behind the protection of these "high principles," what they are really doing is conducting a selective policy dictated by the interests of the West, and above all, the United States. This can be seen in the "consistent" attitude of the OSCE toward Chechnya, Kosovo, and the Serb Republic. While on the one hand, they almost openly support the Muslim secessionist movements in Yugoslavia and Russia, the current organizers of the "democratic" and "free" elections, spare no expense to suppress the formally recognized Serb entity in an attempt to strengthen the wobbly state of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is no coincidence, because the ultimate goal of those who instruct the OSCE kadis in the Serb Republic and the monitors in Chechnya is to reduce Russian and Serb state territory to the Province of Moscow and the Pashadom of Serbia.

We are aware of the danger of finding ourselves on Frowick's "black list" for telling the truth about the real intentions of those who are publicly in favor of free and democratic elections, while at the same time they are brutally attempting to rig the elections to the detriment of a nation. The media has often been the target of those who preferred the "argument of power" over the "power of argument," which does not mean that it is possible to change the world with the power of truthful media arguments. [sentence as published]

B-H: World Serb Congress Blames U.S. for Election Delay

LD2808153396 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1136 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 28 Aug (SRNA)—The Paris-based World Serb Congress issued a statement today condemning the decision by Robert Frowick, the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission head in the Serb Republic and the Croat-Muslim Federation, to postpone municipal elections.

"Yesterday Washington ordered Ambassador Frowick to postpone municipal elections in former Bosnia-Herzegovina, allegedly because of irregularities over ballot papers for which, as a rule, the Serb side was blamed," the World Serb Congress says in its statement, noting that this move clearly indicates that Washington is determined to manipulate the September elections.

The World Serb Congress describes the White House decision to postpone municipal elections as strange and absurd, especially in view of the fact that all the leading and relevant world players have been stressing from the very beginning that the 14 September elections are crucial. The move is all the more strange since the ballot papers have already been printed and voting began in several countries yesterday.

"In this way the United States has breached the democratic principles that it has always advocated. We are dealing here with an administration that has clearly opted for totalitarianism," the World Serb Congress says and goes on to point out that recently the OSCE announced that the decision on whether the elections were regular or not would be made after the elections, when it would also be decided in which Serb electoral ward the voting was regular and in which it should be annulled.

The World Serb Congress wishes to warn the free world public that "the arrogance and insensitivity of Washington's latest move heralds fresh dirty games over former Bosnia-Herzegovina" designed to compromise the candidature of Momcilo Krajisnik for the position of member of the joint presidency of the Serb Republic and the Croat-Muslim Federation.

In conclusion, the World Serb Congress calls on free and independent organizations and individuals in Europe to voice their opposition to this totalitarian monster, because "defending the democratic rights of which the United States is depriving the Serb people means defending peace in Europe."

B-H: Klickovic Says Elections To Take Place in Serb Republic

LD2808220196 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1958 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Novi Grad, 28 Aug (SRNA)—Speaking at a Serb Democratic Party [SDS] rally in Dobrijin, near Novi Grad, Gojko Klickovic, prime minister of the Serb Republic, said that "although Frowick [head of the OSCE mission in Bosnia] is considering the possibility of postponing elections at all levels, and not only at local level, they will nevertheless be held in the Serb Republic in line with the Dayton agreement."

"There will never be a Serb state west of the River Drina if the Serb people do not unanimously support the national option on 14 September," Klickovic said to a great number of gathered citizens.

"We shall not allow the Implementation Force to create another Margetici. That was no more than an attempt to provoke the Serbs, to create a conflict and postpone the elections in the Serb Republic completely," he said.

"This does not suit us because we have invested a lot in this state and it is time we had it officially acknowledged," Klickovic said. [passage omitted]

B-H: RS's Krajisnik: OSCE Caved in to Muslim Blackmail

LD2808230696 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 2227 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Obudovac, 29 Aug (SRNA)—The postponement of local elections in the Serb Republic and the Muslim-Croat Federation is a desperate attempt to postpone the final defeat of the Muslims, the Croats, and the international community in the Bosnia of Dayton, Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the People's Assembly of the Serb Republic, said in a statement for SRNA.

"We should not do anything against the rules and the imposed solutions; there is no need for us to be spiteful—the Muslims, the Croats, and the international community can only postpone the elections, but sooner or later they will have to organize them and will be unable to annul their results," Krajisnik said. He also spoke at the Serb Democratic Party's [SDS] rally in Obudovac yesterday evening.

He said that "whether it is in September 1996 or in April 1997, the SDS will repeat the results of all Serb plebiscites, with 90 percent support from the electorate."

Stressing that the leaders of the Serb Republic were disappointed by the decision of Robert Frowick, head of the OSCE mission, the speaker of the Serb Assembly said this act "has completely destroyed the credibility of the international community in this area and throughout the world."

"We are not worried about the postponement of the elections because we envisaged that such a thing might happen, but we are concerned to see that the international community has caved in to Muslim blackmail, because Frowick's shameful decision is, in fact, a concession to one side in the Bosnia-Herzegovina of Dayton," Mr. Krajisnik said, adding that prior to 14 September the People's Assembly will adopt a final decision on whether to hold or to boycott the elections.

B-H: Krajisnik Warning: Prepare To Defend Serb Republic

LD2808215996 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1958 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lopare, 28 Aug (SRNA)—Speaking at a large traditional Assumption meeting in Lopare today, Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the Serb Republic Assembly, said that the Serbs "are no longer divided along regional, national, and ideological lines."

Krajisnik warned that "we have to prepare for the defense of the Bosnian Serb Republic if Muslim-Croat fundamentalism resurfaces, and that we will put up a successful defense if we create a better future for all its citizens."

"The September elections are decisive for our entire nation. Every effort is being made to find and bring 'suitable' Serbs who—for their own interests and the interests of others—will betray the Serb Republic and create better conditions for those who want to take it away from us.

"We have never been barbarians and we have been in existence for centuries," said the assembly speaker, who added that "we will no longer be treated as small change on the world market."

Foreign Minister Aleksa Buha said that the problem of refugees should be resolved on the principle of reciprocity and explained that "as many refugees will come from the Muslim-Croat Federation as the Federation will take from us, but that the Serbs have decided not to go back." [passage omitted]

Warning that "the election regulations are constantly changing and that new traps and new conditions are being set," Buha said that "there must be no incidents which could lead to our expulsion from the elections." [passage omitted:]

B-H: Opposition Demands Withdrawal of Krajisnik Candidacy

AU2708134796 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 27 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, Aug 27 (AFP)—A coalition of Bosnian opposition parties called Tuesday for the top hardline Bosnian Serb Momcilo Krajisnik to be withdrawn from next month's Bosnian elections. Officials of the Unified List coalition of five anti-nationalist opposition parties said here Krajisnik had broken the Dayton peace accord by declaring Sunday that "Bosnia no longer exists."

Krajisnik, a candidate to the Serb seat in the three-member collegiate presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina, had in his speech in Derventa, northern Bosnia, on Sunday, "used terms directly contrary to the Dayton accord," Zlatko Lagumdzija of the former communist SDP said. The speaker of the Bosnian Serb parliament is a close associate of Serb war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic and is considered the most senior of the hardline Serb leading clique who has not yet been indicted for war crimes.

Lagumdzija, presenting the Unified List's anti-nationalist, pro-market economy programme to the Bosnian refugees due to vote in the Federal Yugoslavia, protested against the difficulties of campaigning for the elections. "In the territory controlled by Ratko Mladic (commander of the Bosnian Serb army) we were not able to organise any sort of election rally," he said. He also criticised the pressures put on the opposition in territory controlled by the Moslem-Croat federation.

The majority of the Bosnian refugees in Federal Yugoslavia are ethnic Serbs.

In the territory controlled by the Moslem-Croat federation, the Unified List is expected to pick somewhere around 10 percent of Moslem votes, according to a recent opinion poll.

B-H: SMP Considered To Be Milosevic's 'Trojan Horse'

AU2808115196 Paris AFP in English
1122 GMT 28 Aug 96

[By Adrian Brown]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Aug 28 (AFP)—A Belgrade-backed opposition coalition based here, effectively a Trojan horse built by Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic, is hoping to unseat the Bosnian Serbs' wartime leadership.

An off-shoot of Milosevic's ruling Socialist Party of Serbia, the so-called Alliance for Peace and Progress (SMP), has set its sights on scooping enough seats to win the elections in the Serb-held half of Bosnia.

The union is dominated by former Communist party officials and others who have not been tainted by wartime politics. If they won, it would be the biggest upset in Bosnia's national poll, scheduled for September 14. Generally, the incumbent nationalist parties of Bosnia's Serbs, Moslems and Croats are expected to win.

Though Karadzic relinquished public office in July under heavy U.S. pressure, his coterie of close associates still rule from their mountain stronghold of Pale, just east of Sarajevo.

The siting of the opposition in Banja Luka is fitting. Hundreds of kilometers (miles) by road from Pale, the largest Serb-held town in Bosnia has long been ignored by Karadzic's ruling SDS [Serbian Democratic Party] party.

Now, it is the centre of opposition to the SDS which many accuse of war-profiteering and doing little to prevent Muslim and Croat forces grabbing large areas of territory from the Serbs in fighting last summer.

The consequent flood of Serb refugees into the area, who today scrape a living on humanitarian aid and small street stalls, provides a ready constituency of discontent.

"They (SDS) have not provided us with anything since we came here as refugees. I don't trust them anymore," said 20-year-old Danica Basic, a refugee from Drvar, one of the towns now under Muslim-Croat Federation control.

September's poll is a central plank of Bosnia's Dayton peace accord which ended the war last December and sanctioned the wartime division of the country between the Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim-Croat Federation.

Leaders for the two halves will be elected by their respective ethnic groups as well as candidates for a rotating presidency for the state of Bosnia itself.

To break the SDS stranglehold in the so-called Srpska Republika (RS) [Serb Republic], the Union, together with a smaller opposition grouping, must win more than a third of the votes, something a leading member of the coalition claims will be easy.

"If all we were going to do was get a quarter of the votes, we would not even bother fighting the election," declared Branko Dokic who heads the Union's candidate list for the RS assembly, adding that their target was "between 35 and 40 percent."

Such optimism is surprising for a party that gets little exposure on the SDS-controlled media. However, the party does enjoy near exclusive coverage in Milosevic's Serbia where around one quarter of the Bosnian Serb electorate voted on Wednesday.

Dokic's Socialist Party of the RS (SPRS) was formed in 1993 when Belgrade split with the Karadzic leadership. September's poll will be its first opportunity to wheedle Belgrade's influence into the day-to-day running of the RS, a threat apparently taken seriously by Pale.

During election campaigning, opposition figures have suffered intimidation. Some have lost jobs. At a recent party rally two were injured when hand grenades were thrown into the crowd. On SMP election posters in Banja Luka, another message has been plastered: "The Alliance for Peace and Progress is the Union for Betrayal."

It is a charge the party denies. "We have been accused of being anti-nationalist and losing the RS but that's not true," Dokic says. Indeed, on a range of key nationalist Serb issues, the SPRS and other opposition parties fighting the election are shoulder to shoulder with Pale.

While Dokic, says his party will implement the Dayton accords, he doesn't want the thousands of Muslims and Croats chased from their homes in Banja Luka to return. Nor does he believe that Bosnia will remain whole as envisaged by Dayton.

"We think we should realise Dayton, under which we have been allowed to have special relationship with Serbia. Of course we will take advantage of that and later on we will see what will happen," he explains candidly.

B-H: Serb SDS Leader Seen as 'Tragedy for Bosnia'

MS2908094396 London THE EUROPEAN in English 29 Aug-4 Sep 96 p 7

[Article by Julius Strauss, including remarks by Bosnian-Serb leader Momcilo Cvjetinovic: "Turning Srebrenica Into a Place Fit for Serbs"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Dayton agreement and its call for a multi-ethnic Bosnia was bad news for Momcilo Cvjetinovic. A Bosnian-Serb nationalist, Cvjetinovic is one of a breed of leaders that years of state-sponsored propaganda have spawned.

"We do not want to live with Muslims," he says decisively. "There is no authority that could prevent another war if we are forced to live together. Even before the war, the Serbs were second-class citizens. The Muslims wanted a united Bosnia-Herzegovina—but a Muslim one."

The tragedy for Bosnia is that Cvjetinovic is in a position of power. As the local head of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS), he is in charge of Srebrenica. Since last winter, he has had the responsibility of turning Srebrenica into a Serbian town.

For the outside world, Srebrenica is an icon not of Serbian culture but of the extreme lengths to which nationalists will go to forge their own mono-ethnic state. Predominantly Muslim before the war, it was overrun by Serbs who killed as many as 8,000 Muslim men living there last July.

But for Cvjetinovic that is of no consequence. Chewing on a suckling pig, he said: "You couldn't get pork in this street before the war." (Muslims consider pigs "unclean" and do not eat pork.) He added: "Given a little time and money, we will turn Srebrenica into a town that we Serbs can be proud of."

These sentiments are shared by nationalists all over Bosnia. Serbs, Croats and even some Muslims have committed atrocities to create ethnically separate neighbourhoods.

On 14 September the international community is due to hold elections in Bosnia. They are asking voters to elect representatives who will unite the country after four years of civil war.

But the politicians who hold power want nothing to do with unity. Most of the leaders still have blood on their hands from purges and "ethnic cleansing." And they will continue the fight to preserve the "ethnically pure" statelets they have carved for themselves.

The preliminary indications are that a vast majority of Serbs want to leave Bosnia altogether. Furthermore, they want nothing to do with their former Muslim neighbours. The SDS, until recently led by indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic, is set to win a majority in Republika Srpska (the Serb-held half of Bosnia) campaigning on a separatist platform. Now that he has been—temporarily at least—silenced, men like Cvjetinovic are blatantly taking up the cudgels.

Cvjetinovic is hardly reluctant. "Like all other nations in Europe we have a right to our own state," he said. "The Czech Republic and Slovakia have been recognised. So have Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM], Slovenia and Croatia. The attitude of the international community will change. Dayton will not last forever, just as Yugoslavia did not last forever."

He is certainly a bitter man. Born in Srebrenica, he says his sister was killed by Muslims in 1992. Before that, he lost his job as a radio journalist when the Muslim Party won Srebrenica's municipal elections in 1990.

The war gave people like Cvjetinovic the chance to leapfrog over more discerning Serbs who rejected his fierce nationalism. Today they hold important posts in the Serb half of Bosnia—posts they are unlikely to give up easily.

They have manipulated the letter and spirit of the Dayton agreement to get what they want. While Dayton allows for refugees to vote in their new home in exceptional cases, Bosnian Serbs have signed up en masse to vote in towns that were predominantly Muslim before the war.

Cvjetinovic says that, using this trick, Serb refugees living in Srebrenica will probably constitute a large enough vote to return a Serb mayor on 14 September. Dayton also calls for freedom of movement across Bosnia and the right of refugees to return home. Despite this, no Muslim has been allowed to even visit Srebrenica, and none will be allowed to return to vote.

When Carl Bildt, the international high representative, visited Srebrenica ten days ago, Cvjetinovic told him the town was too small to accommodate returning Muslim voters. He said: "The war memories are still too fresh. If the Muslims come to vote, no Muslim bus would return to its territory unstoned. The Serbs left their territories so that the Muslims could have their homes—these are now Serbian homes."

This cementing of the ethnic divide will prove a disaster for Bosnia. It not only contravenes the Dayton agreement, but is leading inexorably towards the secession of Bosnia's Serbian and Croat parastates.

Unless things change radically, such apostles of separatism as Cvjetinovic will be allowed to have their way.

B-H: Serbs Report Muslim Provocations Near Zvornik

LD2808115996 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1026 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zvornik, 28 Aug (SRNA)—According to the public security center [police station] in Zvornik [Serb-held town in eastern Bosnia], Muslims are using IFOR presence to rapidly settle in the village of Mahala in the Serb part of the Kalesija municipality [inside the Bosnian Serb Republic].

"More than 100 people from the Muslim-Croat federation, including Muslim commandos, crossed [the border between the Serb Republic and the Muslim-Croat federation] to Mahala during the night between 27 and 28 August," SRNA has learned from the public security center in Zvornik.

According to the same source, most of them are men of military age who took advantage of the transfer of an IFOR base to move into deserted houses in the village. Shots were echoing throughout Mahala last night during the "colonization," which was allegedly covered by REUTER reporters. When their documents were inspected, it turned out that they were ethnic [Bosnian] Muslims.

B-H: UN: Serbs Detained at U.S. Checkpoint Near Mahala

AU2908115296 Paris AFP in English 1140 GMT 29 Aug 96

[By Slavica Cosic]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Aug 29 (AFP)—NATO troops were holding more than 25 Bosnian Serbs, including police and officials, Thursday after a gun battle between Serbs and Muslims in a northeastern Bosnian village, a UN official said. The Serbs were being detained at a U.S. checkpoint just outside Mahala on the road between the Muslim-held northern town of Tuzla and the Serb-held eastern town of Zvornik, UN spokesman Andrea Angelli said.

A group of Bosnian Muslims returned to Serb-held Mahala this week and Angelli said the gun battle Thursday appeared "linked to the return of the refugees."

The Serbs, who included police and Serb interior ministry officials, had not been arrested but were being detained, he added.

Some reports coming from the area put the number of those held at 25 and others ranged up to 46, Angelli said, adding that the details of the incident Thursday morning were still not clear by midday.

U.S. troops were involved in the detentions, said an IFOR official who asked not to be named. The official said talks were going on involving a senior U.S. officer and a Serb police commander at the U.S.-manned checkpoint where the Serbs were being detained.

IFOR officials in Tuzla said they were preparing an official statement on the incident for release later in the day.

Angelli said UN international police were alerted to an exchange of gunfire at Mahala at around 10:00 a.m. Thursday. UN police, armed with flak jackets and protective helmets were sent to the region, and, at around 11:00 a.m., called in IFOR troops who swooped into the village aboard three helicopters, he said. Following the arrival of the IFOR troops, the firing stopped he said.

Mahala is a completely destroyed village on the Serb side of the internal boundary within Bosnia where a group of Muslims have been returning in the past days to rebuild their homes.

The incident came three days after a group of around two dozen Bosnian Muslims from Mahala, living as refugees in neighbouring Muslim-controlled territory, returned to their former homes in the abandoned village.

Incidents have broken out previously in Mahala when Muslims attempted to return to the village as they are entitled to do under the terms of the Dayton peace treaty.

Hardline Serbs, who seized the village early in the Bosnian war, have vowed to stop Muslims returning to their homes.

In Sarajevo, UN spokesman Alexander Ivanko said the incident was "very serious and very worrying." "Our report is that there was some shooting going on in that area," he said. "It's treated so seriously that for the first time since (March) UN police had to put on flak jackets," he stressed.

Under the terms of the Dayton peace treaty, all Bosnians have the right to return to homes from which they were forced during the war, regardless of their ethnic origin.

Croatia: Economy Minister Hospitalized; Condition 'Stable'

LD2808174796 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In reaction to reports in some newspapers about the illness of Minister Davor Stern, the government's public relations office has announced that Economy Minister Stern was admitted to the Fran Mihaljevic Infectious Diseases Center suffering from an inflammation. He is in a stable condition and will be allowed to go home for recuperation soon, provided that there are no further complications. [passage omitted]

Croatia: Beli Manastir Municipal Assembly Elects President

AU2808202096 Beli Manastir Srpski Radio Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 26 Aug 96

[Report by [illegible]entified correspondent on the Beli Manastir Mu[illegible]al Assembly's regular session in Beli Manastir on 26 [illegible]ugust]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] With regard to the position of all the committees, members of the Municipal Assembly unanimously elected Rade Arbutina president of the Beli Manastir Municipal Assembly today. Moreover, the activities concerning the Erdut Agreement implementation and the UNTAES [UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia] peace mission were analyzed, as were the future tasks. In addition to this, heads of several municipal secretariats were appointed. We have a report on today's session.

[Unidentified reporter] The Municipal Assembly session—the first since 25 June, that is, after the summer break—began with the discussion of the question raised by Milivoj Trifunovic [passage indistinct] president of the executive council of the Beli Manastir Municipal Assembly, Vaso Zigic. Assembly members were given answers to their questions concerning the opening of the peace mission office in Beli Manastir, the ferry on the Drava River, and the cooperation with [word indistinct] municipalities in Serbia. They will receive written answers to the questions concerning the quality of [word indistinct] production, the TV program on the women's protest meeting, and [words indistinct] in Knezevi Vinogradi.

The discussion of the first item on the agenda, which was the appointment of the head of the Municipal Assembly, confirmed that the highest legislative body in Baranja is well coordinated and strong. Namely, Srbislav Stankovic, deputy president of the Municipal Assembly, stated that all the committees had agreed that Rade Arbutina, secretary of the Association of Pensioners of Baranja and the Serb province be nominated for the position of president of the Beli Manastir Municipal Assembly, which, as all the open ballot showed, was unanimously supported by all the assembly members. Having been elected, Rade Arbutina addressed the assembly.

[Begin Arbutina recording] I promise I will exercise the rights and carry out the obligations of president of the Beli Manastir Municipal Assembly in accordance with the Constitution and the law of the Republic of Serb Krajina and the statute of the Beli Manastir municipality, and in the interests of the Beli Manastir Municipal Assembly [applause].

[Passage omitted] I will try to make a family out of this assembly so that we are able to work with one soul and one body. I will work toward our forgetting about the disagreements and finding at least about 10 points that we agree upon and that we will not have to debate on and [words indistinct].

I would like to thank all those who have worked as presidents before. I would like to thank [name indistinct] for paving the way, and for bringing certain people here. I would also like to thank the deputy president of the assembly, who was carrying out the duties of the president; the president of the executive council, who has done the majority of the work; all the secretaries; and all those who took part in the work.

I do not know what the future will bring. I will try to implement your decisions. You will be creating the policies, while I will be one of the little (?wheels) that will try to implement them. I will try to implement all the decisions made by the assembly. I will inform the assembly of the decisions that are not implemented, for whatever reason, after which we will consider what should be done.

I also have to tell you that I do not want to be a puppet in the municipality. I want to be the president. As long as I can be the president, I will work, or else I will resign and not work. There will be some inevitable changes within the Municipal Assembly, the most important one being the appointment of the secretary, and there may also be some personnel changes, since there are probably some people there who are not doing a good job. [sentence as heard]

I have done many different things in my life. Now I am municipality president, which I have not been before. People say that what I have done was well done; I will try to carry out the task that is before me in the same way [end Arbutina recording].

[Unidentified reporter] After Vaso Zigic, president of the municipal government, Milan Corak, and Petar

Djukic, head of the transitional police spoke, the report on the talks with the UNTAES, that is, the activity of the Beli Manastir secretariat of internal affairs in the context of the activity of the UNTAES transitional police, was adopted along with amendments and specific deadlines for certain tasks.

The assembly members also adopted the revised decision on the municipal administration bodies, which states that a secretariat for relations and cooperation with the UNTAES will be formed. This operative municipal secretariat will carry out the tasks concerning Erdut Agreement implementation, coordination of all the activities concerning demilitarization in the Beli Manastir municipality, cooperation with the UNTAES bodies, organization of meetings of representatives of our municipality bodies, Croatian representatives, and the UNTAES, and other tasks as required by the UNTAES or the Beli Manastir municipality bodies.

Several decisions were made concerning the activity of municipal administration bodies, and several nominations were made: Ljubomir Horvat was nominated secretary of the secretariat for general administration and public services, Milos Jovic director of the municipal public revenue administration, Mile Bekic secretary of the secretariat for civil defense, and Zarko Devic secretary of the secretariat for town planning, housing, public utility services, construction, and property rights relations.

Croatia: Replacements in Transitional Police Force Viewed

AU2908063896 Beli Manastir Srpski Radio Network in Serbo-Croatian 1430 GMT 27 Aug 96

[Commentary by Mica Jovanovic from the "Vise od Vesti" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The negotiations within the committee for establishing the transitional police forces in the Serb Province of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem were carried out in the direct contacts between the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior of the Serb Province and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia, as organized by representatives of the UNTAES [UN Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia]. The negotiations resulted in the joint training of the members of transitional police forces in Budapest and the establishment of transitional police forces on 1 July 1996.

A great number of representatives of both sides took part in the negotiations, and it is from among those people that the head of the transitional police forces and his deputy were chosen. The members of the Serb police that took part in successfully ending the talks are now members of the transitional police forces and are holding the same positions they were nominated for.

Petar Djukic, head of the transitional police forces, Petar Grgic and Pero Jovanovic, secretaries in the sectors north and south, assistant heads of the transitional police forces, and other associates who directly or indirectly took part in the negotiations and the establishment of the transitional police forces are still holding their positions. This attitude of the Serb side shows that an effort is being made to maintain continuity in establishing the transitional police forces and to secure the implementation of the set tasks, the best guarantee for which is the people who have been part of the process since the very beginning.

Unfortunately, it seems that it is only the Serb side that has this position, and that it is only the Serb side that would like to see the transitional police activity carried out without obstructions. How else is it possible to account for the facts that the Republic of Croatia has changed three people from the time that the negotiation team was formed until the time that the deputy head of the transitional police forces was nominated and it is expected that yet a new deputy will be appointed?

The thought that inevitably comes to mind is that Croatia is conducting a short-term personnel policy—it is only after they have appointed a person to a certain position that they see they are not suitable for it—or else they are trying to use the frequent changes to disrupt the continuity and obstruct the establishment of the transitional police forces.

However, we believe that, apart from the abovementioned reasons, the main reason the members of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia have been replaced is that they did not manage—during the negotiations and the establishing of the transitional police forces—to match the Serb negotiators and the persons who hold the head positions in the transitional police forces in the negotiations and especially in the professional sphere.

This statement can easily be substantiated through an analysis of the negotiations, in which, as the UN representatives have stated, the Serb side dominated by adhering to principles, displaying determination, and especially by showing their professional knowledge of police activity and applying the achievements of (?scientific police) in practice.

The UN representatives who organized the negotiations and took part in all the activities regarding the establishing of the transitional police forces could not but support and approve the acts and proposals of the Serb negotiation team, as they had no arguments with which to question them. This fair and unbiased attitude of the UN CIVPOL [UN civilian police] members was not approved by some of the representatives of certain countries (?in the international community), and certain UN CIVPOL members were either replaced or their mandates were not renewed.

The same attitude towards this issue was displayed in the case of [name indistinct] the commissioner of the transitional police forces; after he had done a successful job in negotiations and establishing the transitional police forces, he was suddenly replaced without explanation, and a new commissioner—Austrian general [word indistinct] (Walter Falman)—who, according to the information we have, is expected to show more determination and be tougher toward the Serb side. Those who appointed him have the right to demand the above of him, and we would like to add that, in order to meet all the demands, it is necessary that the professional level should match the job requirements in order for him not to end up the same way as the above-mentioned members of the Croatian Interior Ministryand the UN CIVPOL members.

That the essence of these events is a tactical battle of wits and strategic [word indistinct] of forces is shown by the methods used by the UN CIVPOL representatives. They constantly call the head of the transitional police forces, demand his presence and engagement in [words indistinct] important problems, and contact him after working hours as well as over the weekend, thus—using the method of exhaustion and distraction—trying to obstruct the activity of the senior officials of the transitional police forces.

FYROM: Government Favors Longer UNPREDEP Mandate

AU2908144696 Skopje MIC in English 29 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] has asked the UN Security Council for an extension of the UNPREDEP [UN Preventive Deployment Force] mandate for another six months, high-ranking government representatives inform. The information was confirmed by the UNPREDEP command in Skopje. The current mandate of UNPREDEP expires on 30 November.

FYROM: Bosnian Prime Minister To Visit 29-30 Aug

AU2808191196 Skopje MIC in English 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the invitation of Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski, the Prime Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina Hasan Muratovic will stay in Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] on a working visit on the 29th and 30th of this month, the Prime Minister's cabinet announces.

During his stay, Prime Minister Muratovic will hold a number of meetings and discussions. The Bosnian delegation is also expected to be received by President Gligorov and other peak personalities.

FYROM: Bosnian Refugees in Macedonia Begin Voting

LD2908140296 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 29 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bosnia-Herzegovina refugees have begun voting in Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM]. Polling booths will be open until 31 August for the 880 voters registered in 28 Macedonian town. The organizers estimate that around 1,500 Bosnia-Herzegovina refugees will cast their vote in the elections [figures as heard]. The elections are monitored by OSCE representatives and officials of the Macedonian Ministry of Labor and Social Affaires.

FYROM: FRY Prime Minister To Visit 3-4 Sep

LD2708161996 Belgrade FONET in Serbo-Croatian 1507 GMT 27 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Skopje, 27 Aug (SRNA/FONET)—Slavko Milosavlevski, a university professor and journalist, leaves for Belgrade tomorrow where he will be the first Macedonian ambassador to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the MAKFAKS agency reports. Milosavlevski's departure for Belgrade coincides with preparations for a visit to Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] by Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoje Kontic on 3 and 4 September.

On this occasion Belgrade and Skopje should sign a series of agreements on extending economic cooperation. Experts from the two countries are currently working on preparations for this in Skopje.

Slavko Milosavlevski, aged 68, is a Partisan of the 1941 era, and had top posts in the social and political life of Macedonia and the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. [passage omitted]

FYROM: Talks With FRY on Free Trade Zone Continue

AU2708175996 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1141 GMT 27 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Skopje, 27 August (BETA)—Today at the Macedonian Ministry of Economy talks have continued between the expert teams of the FRY and Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] on the harmonization of the text of a trade agreement.

Macedonian Minister Becir Zuta told the Skopje DNEVNIK that the final result of this dialogue should be the establishment of a free trade zone between the two countries by the end of the century.

The negotiations between the expert teams are being held ahead of the visit of Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoje Kontic to Macedonia [FYROM], scheduled for 4 September, when a series of agreements between the two countries is supposed to be signed.

We learn that before the Kontic-Crvenkovski meeting in Skopje the Macedonian and the Yugoslav diplomatic representatives in charge of determining the border between the two countries will meet for the first time.

The idea of the free trade zone between Macedonia and Yugoslavia was brought up for the first time in this spring, during the visit of Yugoslav Economics Minister Djordje Siradovic to Macedonia, when it was announced that by 1999 the customs-free union of the two countries will be gradually established.

It is expected that the trade agreement will secure the expansion of the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, as well as the gradual liberalization of the mutual trade toward international regulations.

According to official data of the Macedonian Chamber of Commerce, last year's trade exchange between Macedonia and the FRY amounted to $1.1 billion, compared with $2.5 billion in 1987.

The announced establishment of the customs-free zone with the FRY and liberalization of the current trade regime has pleased Macedonian businessmen, because those steps open up the possibility of reviving connections with the familiar market.

Macedonia has already established a similar free trade zone with Slovenia, whereas with Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina contracts on the liberalization of trade exchange have been concluded at the level of their respective Chambers of Commerce.

FYROM: Trade Positions Coordinated With FRY Experts

AU2808185296 Skopje MIC in English 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The expert groups from the Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] and FRY held negotiations these last two days in the Ministry of Economy in Skopje, over the coordination of the stances for signing an Agreement on trade between the two countries, the Information Secretariat announces. The authorized representatives of the two countries brought the text of the Agreement to an end. The experts are expected to meet again on Friday. The text of the Agreement on customs cooperation between the two countries has also been coordinated, as a result of the to-date sound cooperation.

FYROM: Skopje-Belgrade Border Commission To Meet 2 Sep

AU2908093396 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1736 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Skopje, 28 August—The Macedonian Foreign Ministry announced today that the first meeting of a joint Macedonian-Yugoslav commission for defining mutual borders is scheduled to meet on 2 September.

The Macedonian ministry's statement says that at the meeting, the diplomatic-expert teams from Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] will exchange opinions on the ways and methods of the commission's work.

FRY Ambassador Radomir Bogdanovic has been appointed president of the Yugoslav team in the joint border commission.

FYROM: Russian Embassy Spokesman Views Defense Agreement

AU2708165596 Skopje MIC in English 26 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] By the end of the year, Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] and Russia will sign an agreement in the field of defense, which will open up broad perspectives for cooperation and possibilities for the supply of the art [as received] Russian arms for the Macedonian Army, Yuriy Trushin, charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Macedonia, stated for the Ohrid SUPER RADIO.

Trushin added that the agreement was initially signed during the recent "low level" visit of the Russian military delegation to Macedonia.

"Without Russia, the stability of the Balkans will be a difficult question. The Dayton accord only confirms that paramount interests intersect in this region. Especially the great countries have always been rivals here. Things stand the same today as well, but it has to be done in a civilized way. The raising of the influence of certain countries in this part of the Balkans has to be realized as a political process," Trushin said in the interview for the Ohrid SUPER RADIO.

FYROM: Handziski To Visit Moscow Next Year

AU2808185196 Skopje MIC in English 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Agreement on military cooperation between the Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] and the Russian Federation will most probably be signed at the beginning of next year. This was stated by a high-ranking representative of the Department for International Cooperation of the Macedonian Defence Ministry, on the occasion of the statement of the Charge d'Affaires of the Russian Federation in Macedonia Yuriy Trusin for the Ohrid radio station SUPER, in connection with the military cooperation on a bilateral plan. According to the same source, the procedure for drawing up an Agreement on military cooperation with the Russian Federation has actually been finalized with the signing of the Protocol during the visit of the Russian military delegation in May, this year. The Protocol, signed by the two sides, foresees a review of the text of the Agreement, drawn up according to the standards for such agreements, and it practically contains all the elements from the agreements the Macedonian Defence Ministry has signed with other countries. From the aspect of the coordination of the acceptability, the text of the Agreement does not contain any disputable elements. The Protocol also foresees that the Agreement on military cooperation be signed as soon as things calm down following the lifting of the UN embargo on the export and import of arms in June, this year.

In relation to Trushin's statement that the two defence ministers are expected to meet by the end of the year, a high-ranking representative of the Department for International Cooperation of the Macedonian Defence Ministry confirmed that last week, the Assistant Russian Military Attache to Macedonia Sergej Strisko was received at the Department at his request, where he delivered the letter from the Attache, informing the Defence Ministry that the programme of the Russian Defence Ministry has an official visit of the Macedonian Defence Minister to Moscow lined up by the end of the year. However, according to the programme of the Macedonian Defence Minister Blagoj Handziski, there are no possibilities of realizing that meeting by the end of the year.

Namely, Minister Handziski already has several visits outside the country lined up for September and October, and he is also the host of a couple of visits of foreign delegations. Also in preparation is the document on the third phase of the discussions on the expansion of NATO, which will be held on September 18, this year. In October, on the other hand, the first exercise as part of Partnership for Peace is organized, and this period coincides with the holding of the first local elections which are expected to last until the beginning of December. In addition, minister Handziski is expected to take part in the December Ministerial Meeting in Brussels. Due to these reasons, minister Handziski will be expected to make his visit to Moscow at the beginning of next year.

FYROM: National Bank Governor on Convertibility of Denar

AU2908145096 Skopje MIC in English 29 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Governor of the National Bank of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] Borko Stanoevski stated in today's interview for NOVA MAKEDONIJA that the denar is acquiring international convertibility, after the institutionalization of the foreign currency market and the exchange offices, which eliminates the black market.

According to Stanoevski, "its international convertibility remains to be realized, that is it is necessary to make analyses and see the ways in which that can happen. I believe that this step can be made in two, three years at the most, when the net foreign currency reserves will reach a level of $350 million and when a more significant, lasting, and real increase in industrial production is registered."

FYROM: Tetovo University Official Released From Prison

AU2708175096 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1635 GMT 27 Aug 96

[Telephone report by Imer Ismajli from Skopje]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Tetovo University Information Service issued a public communique in which it announced that Professor Milaim Fejziu, chairman of the Tetovo University Senate, was released from prison today. There is no additional information on his early release.

As is known, Professor Milaim Fejziu was sentenced by the Tetovo Communal Court to four months in prison for a criminal act he never committed. According to the Appeal Court's verdict, Senate Chairman Milaim Fejziu started serving his sentence on 22 July together with Professor Doctor Fadil Sulejmani, rector of the Tetovo University.

Nevzat Halili, chairman of the Republican Party for Popular Unity, and Magistrate Musli Halimi, both devoted activists for the Tetovo University cause, were also convicted and joined them in prison to serve their sentences.

It should be stressed that the chairman of the Tetovo Communal Court and the Appeal Court in Skopje for the second time refused a demand to annul the sentences for these two activists convicted for nonexistent criminal acts.

FYROM: PDP Leader Against Inciting Crisis

AU2808181696 Skopje VECER in Macedonian 23-24 Aug 96 pp 6-7

[Interview with Abdurahman Aliti, leader of the PDP, by Predrag Dimitrovski; place and date not given: "PDP Does not Hide Its Face"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This hot summer, with extremely high temperatures, was even hotter for the representatives of the Albanian political parties. The latest events related to the founders of "Tetovo university," the traveling protest meetings, and everyday statements made by various sides gave new light to the interethnic relations and the position of the Albanians in Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM]. The global focus was the local elections, that is, whether to take part in them or not. This was the reason for having a discussion with Mr. Abdurahman Aliti, president of the PDP [Party for Democratic Prosperity], a coalition partner in the government and the leading party of the Albanians in Macedonia.

[Dimitrovski] Mr. Aliti, it is not easy to get in touch with you these days. Does this mean that the PDP, whose leader you are, has finally started an offensive after a long, lasting defensive, I would say, by trying to overtake the leadership over the events that are of importance for the Albanians in Macedonia?

[Aliti] First, the reason it was not easy to get in touch with me is because I was absent from the country for some time, so I could not meet you, and, second, it is true that in the last 10 days we have intensified our activities and meetings with different domestic and foreign representatives and delegations, with discussions, and so on. Now, speaking about a defensive or an offensive, the reality is that there are only more intensive activities and I have neither the intention nor the ambition, neither as party nor person, to be the one who is overtaking the leadership. The leadership will be taken only if the political program is right, if it is duly implemented, and if it is acceptable for a greater number of people. If there is success in this, and so far we have had it, it means that the leadership will always belong to the one who has the majority.

The Worst of Treasons

[Dimitrovski] "Mala Recica University" has become the main course in the activities of the Albanian parties. With the recent reshuffle in the presidency of the university, your representatives lost their positions. What is this dissent about? Is it because of the different educational concepts or because of ideological dissensions?

[Aliti] I must openly say that the PDP neither had representatives in the university, nor does it intend to. Our stance has been quite clear from the onset. We have said that the university must be organized and act as a purely educational institution, and we have pledged to leave policy and political parties outside of it. We want only pure education inside and pure organization of the work, and this must be the only duty of the people that are engaged in these activities. It is another matter whether this view is being respected by others or not. Apparently it is not. As far as we are concerned, we believe that we will proceed with our position, that is that there must not be any political influence over the university because we believe it to be harmful for the university itself and at large. Actually, in 1936, when the process of political influence of the Nazis started in the German universities, a German philosopher said that "if the university becomes an instrument of political propaganda, it is the worst of treasons." I believe that he was very much right and after the recent events that took place here I remembered his claims and, unfortunately, I concluded that an event that happened over 60 years ago was resurrected here with us.

[Dimitrovski] In your latest interview for FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT you mentioned some differences regarding the dimensions of the university, that is in relation to the number of the faculties and students.

[Aliti] When we discussed the educational needs of the Albanians in their mother tongue at a university level, we took into consideration all the circumstances and conditions that are relevant for the successful functioning of this institution. We decided that neither the space and the given possibilities, nor the personnel provide opportunities for a larger university, so we pledged for the most necessary faculties, first of all such that would endow educational personnel for education in elementary and secondary schools, and possibly one or two more for fields in which we have a deficiency of staff. Normally, there is the financial component as well because it is not financed by the state, but by donations, sponsorships, and so on. We believed that it is not to be enlarged too much if we want it to ascend and exist. Not only was our view not respected, but it was also defined as a position that is against the university. However, this is another question. We believe that we need not compete among ourselves in the sense of asking for as many faculties as possible because, finally, the request is common. Competition can lead us to infinity. If one says that we need 15, another will say 20 or 30, and so on, and this is an absurd debate. So, we call on reason, on reality, and on rationality if we wish to encourage a feasible and indispensable need.

[Dimitrovski] It has been noticed that you are constantly speaking of a university or education in the Albanian language, but you rarely name it "Tetovo" or "university in Mala Recica."

[Aliti] It is a fact that this university is now practically acting in a Tetovo community, Mala Recica, but it does not necessarily mean that it has to be located exactly in Recica. At the same time, it does not mean that it has to be located in Tetovo either. It is a question that can be discussed—it can be located in Skopje, Gostivar, or any other place. It is not that important for us, and it is not of a primary significance. It is important to have a university in which education will be carried out in Albanian. As for the concrete forms and functions, it is a matter that can be discussed and it is possible to find a procedure that will satisfy all.

Forced Matter

[Dimitrovski] What do you think about the trials and imprisonments of the authors in Mala Recica, particularly of Mr. Fadil Sulejmani, because the strongest attacks against your party came when practically nothing was taking place at "Tetovo University"?

[Aliti] You are quite right to claim that at the time these attacks came, nothing was happening at the university. There was literally nothing. The only thing that happened was that the charges were confirmed and the accused went to prison. Our view regarding the trial or trials, the charges and sentences, was publicly exposed during the trial. Nothing has been changed so far. We still believe that these trials should not have taken place at all. We still believe that the activities of these gentlemen, who are now convicted, do not represent criminal acts and that the authorities forced it through to show its teeth and strength, and so on. I believe that it was, and according to our opinion it still is, a mistake that had to and could be amended in the interim.

[Dimitrovski] However, you are also a participant in the government that you are talking about.

[Aliti] Yes, it is a fact that we are participating in this government, but it is also a fact that we disagree and we will not agree on many things that this authority is doing, on many activities that it is undertaking. I neither have the intention nor the desire to comment on our position as participant now, because I have already spoken in public about these matters on many occasions, and I believe that it would be overstatement to repeat it.

[Dimitrovski] Did I not interrupt you in your previous answer, did you perhaps wish to say anything more?

[Aliti] Yes, I said that this mistake could be amended legally after the second court appeals. It was necessary to gather strength in court and say that it was all in the sphere of policy and not in the sphere of the law. It is necessary to see whether the Republic of Macedonia really needs political prisoners, what consequences it may have for the development of democracy, for the democratic legitimacy of the Republic of Macedonia in the eyes of the foreign and of the domestic audience, and so on. However, I believe that it was a mistake and that it should not have taken place. Unfortunately, it did take place.

[Dimitrovski] According to some claims, PDP had offered a "deal" to the political peak of the state—to exchange the leadership of "Tetovo University" for Sulejmani's release.

[Aliti] This is pure speculation. There have not been any such discussions, because it is contrary to our decision not to interfere in the internal affairs of the University. We as people and leaders can be either satisfied or not with the activities of individuals there, but this does not give us the right to interfere directly in, for instance, who they are going to elect as president, professor, and so on. Finally, this is not our job.

Wrong Assessment

[Dimitrovski] The Albanian opposition is openly playing on one card—inciting political crisis in the country. How much does PDP fit into this scheme?

[Aliti] First, the opposition does not have a clearly defined view on what it means by a political crisis. If it believes that if four or five of its members leave parliament a political crisis will ensue, it has definitely made a wrong evaluation. I think that it is necessary to make an appropriate appraisal and see who needs a political crisis at this time and who can profit from it. We as a party have not assessed that we need to be included in activities that will cause a political crisis. Nevertheless, I must admit that some people and leaders inside the party believe that it is befitting, that it will help make aware some circles, which believe that all plights of the political parties of the Albanians, including us, are blackmail, that they are directed against stability, against the Macedonian people in Macedonia, that actually it is aimed at evading the real answer to some questions in dispute.

[Dimitrovski] Your recent statement for Radio Tirana and some statements on leaving the government coalition were understood either as a radicalization in the moderate PDP's policy or as "revealing the true face." What exactly is the PDP's true face?

[Aliti] The true face of the PDP is the political program of the Party for Democratic Prosperity. I assure you that the PDP is not hiding its face. The PDP always states in public what it believes and what it pledges. It makes the same efforts also in government, in parliament, in the discussions with the president of the state, in the discussions and meetings with representatives of other political parties, both Macedonian and opposition, and so on. Everything is clear, nothing is hidden. This is the true face of the PDP and nobody has the right to ask the PDP, because of its participation in the executive power today, to renounce its program determination for equality. I said and I will repeat that the accusations made against the PDP, in which it is said that the PDP tends to radicalize its political activities, are for the purpose of evading the real subject. I claim, with full responsibility, that every observer, expert or nonexpert, will note that the political events inside the PDP do not tend toward radicalization, but toward consistent implementation of the program determinations. As you know, since the formation of the party in 1990, we have pledged education of the Albanians in their mother tongue, including at the university level. In my statement for Radio Tirana, I really did not say anything that I had not said before. A year and a half, or even two years ago, we said that the PDP does not intend to remain in parliament, let alone government, if a solution on the language is not reached, or if a solution on the university is not found. At that time, it was the question of the Rule Book. Nothing can influence our view. I only repeat the conclusions and determinations that were stated a year and a half or two years ago. I do not understand why the Macedonian mass media did not react to or comment on this statement at that time, and why there are commentaries now that we have only reaffirmed we have not changed this view because we had neither reasons nor means to change it. Perhaps the reason for the commentaries was because it was broadcast by Radio Tirana, although it was known in Macedonia, and I remember that it had also been stated in VECER, in NOVA MAKEDONIJA, and in other mass media. I really do not know why.

Authentic Interpretations

[Dimitrovski] Speaking of Radio Tirana, I have the impression that you have many things in common with Mr. Tupurkovski. Every public statement that you make needs your additional explanation.

[Aliti] I do not know whether it is because of the style or something else. It is true that I have been asked to comment on my statements and my personal opinions on several occasions, which draws me to the conclusion that I had not formulated them properly in the first place, and thus additional explanation was necessary. Or, the people who read them, do not read them properly and interpret them in different ways, and therefore authentic explanation is needed, which is not bad after all.

[Dimitrovski] In the interparty conflicts of the ethnic Albanians, there was a time when there was the impression that the PDP did not enjoy Tirana's affection. Now, judging by the latest data, it seems that you are back in the game. They say that it is because of your stay in Tirana in the meantime.

[Aliti] I intended to go on vacation in Albania, but I could not find suitable accommodations, so I did not go. I was last in Tirana when a prominent Albanian intellectual, Faik Kunica, was buried. It was a year and a half or two years ago and I have not been there since. I do not have the impression at all that Tirana is more or less supporting any political party. Finally, we are building our policy independently, although there is public support from Tirana for the way we are conducting our policy. You have probably had the occasion to read some statements by President Berisha in which he gives support to the participation of Albanians in the political life in Macedonia, which he assesses as positive.

[Dimitrovski] In your opinion, how will all the events that have been taking place in the last months be reflected on the PDP's [public opinion] rating, particularly in the wake of the local elections in the fall?

[Aliti] You are referring to the latest events, particularly the rallies under the slogan "we are asking for protection," which were later transformed into rallies against the PDP....

[Dimitrovski] ...and against you personally.

[Aliti] Yes, in which the slogan was "down with Abdurahman Aliti," although I do not know when I was lifted up to be pulled down again. Regardless of all this, the idea, I here refer to the idea of the Albanian opposition, is transparent, and neither the university nor the trials were of any importance. The aim was to discredit a political party, to discredit the PDP. Probably their assessment was to "strike the snake in the head," so if Abdurahman Aliti is discredited, it will be easy to discredit the others. All this was in the function of the forthcoming local elections. However, policy is like life, and life tells you that it is totally wrong to build your happiness on the misery of others. There is even a saying, probably a national wisdom, which is as follows: "Do not build a house on the cemetery." The reason is because there is a real danger that when you build it at such a place, a ghost may appear that will permanently haunt you and never give you peace. The similar case is with the opposition, because it does not present the voters with its own vision, program, and project for the future, which would be essentially different from ours, but its entire activity is directed to what is bad inside the PDP. I do not know whether this is quite normal. It is normal to criticize the government, because it is criticized everywhere. It is actually the task of the opposition to seek and find the mistakes of the government, on which bases it will construct its own policy, and not to attack personalities, political groups, and parties without any arguments, and search for happiness in this misery with the aim of surviving and strengthening its own political party.

Concrete Remarks

[Dimitrovski] At its last session, the government gave approval to the draft law on local elections, and the law on territorial division is in the final phase of preparations. What is the PDP's position in this context?

[Aliti] I respect the opposition remarks, not all of them, of course, in connection with the law on local elections. I have been informed that some remarks have been accepted, but I am not informed whether this fully satisfies the opposition or whether it still has reserves. The latter is probably true, otherwise there is no sense in the opposition saying that the law is good. In regard to the law on territorial division, the matter is as follows: We as participants in the executive power, through our ministers, presented our remarks. First, in a general and global sense, we do not believe that Macedonia needs 119 or 120 opstinas [townships or municipalities] as has been projected. Our plight was and it still is to think hard what kind of units of local government we want, what kind of opstinas. However, the views of the others, particularly of the SDSM [Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia], are different. We have concrete remarks in connection with the offered solutions in the law on the number of opstinas in Tetovo, Gostivar, in the settlements that are mostly inhabited by Albanian population. We have the feeling and the impression that some opstinas are composed by political criteria, and not by the criteria that are listed in the law, as is the infrastructure, the geographical compactness, which make an entity, and so on. The cuts are done on the basis of whether in this future opstina there will be a majority of Macedonians or Albanians, and this is totally damaging for the concept itself. Ultimately, the national composition of the population need not and must not be the decisive criterium, but other criteria, which are somehow defined by the law on local government itself. At the last session of the party's presidency, we defined a minimum that, in our opinion, has to be respected, and the presidency's view is that unless this is respected, we will put at stake our participation in the local elections because we do not want to be directly involved in the shaping of political local units, this is definitely what we do not want to do.

[Dimitrovski] In the meantime, there have been some consultations in the government.

[Aliti] Conditions have been created for participation in the local elections. Some conflicting questions have been settled. There is still the question of our remarks. I cannot explain in detail, because there are three more items that need additional examining.

[Dimitrovski] When exactly will you start with preparations for the local elections?

[Aliti] Well, some preliminary preparations have already started, for instance in looking for and nominating the most adequate members for city councils and mayors. We are still at the level of taking the pulse of the electoral body, because we must not forget that the vote is what matters, and not the opinion of some parties' bodies. Normally, everybody is forming tactics now in the sense of who is going to cooperate with whom and whether to enter any coalition or not.

FYROM: Government Projects 120 Municipalities

AU2808185396 Skopje MIC in English 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In future, provided Parliament ratifies it, the Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] will have 120 municipalities, that is nine more than foreseen by the first draft-law on territorial division of the Republic, the Minister of Justice Vlado Popovski stated.

According to Minister Popovski, the government made this decision unanimously at its Monday session. In addition, the government suspended as anti-constitutional the decision of the Tetovo Assembly to issue a notice of Referendum on the division of the territory of this, so far, single unit, into five new territorial units.

Asked at yesterday's press conference if the Albanian ministers agreed with this proposed solution for territorial division, Popovski replied that "the differences between the first version of the proposal for passing a law on territorial division and this version, which will be submitted for adoption in the Assembly, do not significantly disrupt the concept and arguments for the formation of new municipalities. The differences more realistically reflect a part of the interests which are based on inter-ethnic balance, as those interests also have legitimacy, when they are moderate and balanced," Popovski said.

Specifically, as minister Popovski stated, the result of the coordination of the stances "over which the Albanian ministers were mostly interested and to which they gave their contribution, and where the government accepted that approach, is the 'new physiognomy of the following municipalities: Gostivar—the city municipality includes the villages Cajle, Balin Dol, Malo Otocane, Deloviste and Debreste. The Kicevo municipality, which was also foreseen without inhabited places, will include Rastani and Osoj in the future, as well as some villages which, according to the government's perception, are naturally connected with the city.'" On the basis of the actually determined error, as Popovski said, the village Cjafa from the Gostivar region is a part of Kicevo, as its road connections link it only with Oslomej (which was a Gostivar village until now). Then, a new municipality, Zitose is formed in the Krushevo municipality, in the inhabited regions Lokven and Podivie. The Struga municipality was planned with the inhabited regions Gorna Belisica, Oktisi, Dolna Belisica, Vraniste, Mislesevo, Kaliste and Radozda, while there was supposed to be a separate municipality in the place Radolista, with a couple of village suburbs. Under the new plan, all the above-mentioned suburbs, including the village Radoliste, will be a part of the new municipality of Struga.

According to the initial proposal, the Tetovo municipality was supposed to include only the villages Kalis and Lavce. However, following the changes adopted after negotiations with the PDP, beside these villages, this municipality will also be comprised of the villages Poroj, Dejci, Mala Recica, Selce and Germo. A municipality will also be formed in Djepiste, and, as Popovski added, some actual errors and mistakes have also been corrected.

Minister Popovski also expressed the government's stance in regard to the media's criticism of the "government's draft-law on local elections" which is described as political marketing and propaganda.

"This criticism," Popovski said, "is conducted according to the scheme that everything that comes from the government is with covert intentions and bad, and everything that comes from the opposition is public and positive."

Poland: Politicians, Army React to Decision on Kuklinski

WS2808122796 Warsaw TRYBUNA in Polish 28 Aug 96 pp 1-2

[Article by Zbigniew Wasik, "ZW," "PIK," and "PO": "The Prosecutor's Office Withdraws Arrest Warrant; The Spy May Come Back"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 27 August, the Prosecutor's Office of the Warsaw Military District [WOW] annulled the decision to temporarily arrest Ryszard Kuklinski. [passage omitted]

The decision made by the WOW prosecutor's office caused various reactions. We asked several people to comment:

General Wojciech Jaruzelski: "I do not usually comment on decisions made by state or judicial organs. However, I am surprised by this decision; it is incomprehensible to me."

Lech Walesa: "This is a strange issue. A very strange issue because, when I had something to say, lawyers and everybody else thought that this would be impossible unless Kuklinski asked for it, but now... He has not asked for anything, but the prosecutor's office did this. I do not really know what sense it makes to take such a step. The purpose of this step is to please someone, to show that others failed to do it, but they did not. I do not know. I do not understand this step at all."

Colonel Wieslaw Gornicki: "I believe that high treason is an unambiguous term, and there are no circumstances that could justify a career military officer taking such action. I am not going to act as a prosecutor or do the thinking for him because the prosecutor knows better what he is doing. However, this brings shame on me personally as a retired military officer."

Romuald Szeremietiew, chairman of the Movement for the Republic: "I believe it is a good thing that this happened. The basic issue that involved Colonel Kuklinski concerns the period of the Polish People's Republic [PRL], a country that was part of the camp that was hostile to the United States and NATO. As a result of the fact that great changes have taken place in our political system and that Poland is now in the other camp—that it is trying to join NATO, which is stressed by all of the political forces in Poland, as well as by the fact that the United States is seen as an ally—it seems to me that the decision made by the prosecutor's office is by all means correct. If the PRL still existed and the case were examined by the authorities of that time, then, by those standards, Col. Kuklinski's conduct would have been classified as high treason. In the meantime, however, a considerable change took place, and we no longer live in the PRL, but in the Polish Republic."

Sejm Deputy Janusz Onyszkiewicz (the Freedom Union): "I believe that yesterday's decision is correct. It is only too bad that the entire case is proceeding at such a slow pace. I spoke about the necessity of resolving this problem a long time ago. I believe that the punishment that is hanging over Col. Kuklinski should be canceled. I think that a certain gesture was made toward the colonel, but I doubt that he will want to come to Poland. Such suggestions were made on several occasions in the past, but he ignored them. I would like to say that the question of whether Col. Kuklinski is a hero or a traitor is incorrect. I would reverse the court sentence passed on him. However, I would be cautious about presenting him to Polish soldiers as a model to follow. I do not perceive the person of Col. Kuklinski in these terms. I would not erect a monument to him."

Justice Minister Leszek Kubicki: "I suppose that the motives that made the Warsaw Military Prosecutor's Office reach this decision can be found in the grounds for it; they certainly were provided. However, I cannot comment on this decision because it is possible that I will have to take a stand on this issue in a court of law."

Poland: Walesa To Endorse Solidarity Electoral Action

WS2808142996 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 28 Aug 96 p 5

[Article by Jaroslaw Popek in Gdansk, Wojciech Zaluska, and the Catholic Information Agency: "On the August Anniversary [of the 1980 events], Walesa Will Endorse the Solidarity Electoral Action; The Three Gates of Solidarity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *On 31 August, supporters of the Solidarity Electoral Action will march through the streets of Warsaw in an antigovernment demonstration. Tomorrow in Szczecin Lech Walesa will talk about how to take power away from the Democratic Left Alliance.*

The speech that Walesa is to deliver in Szczecin is a closely guarded secret. We have managed to find out, however, that he is going to endorse Solidarity Action and discourage it from running in the parliamentary elections together with the Movement for the Reconstruction of Poland [ROP]. "ROP consists of demagogues and populists. If they joined Solidarity Action, it would gain 5 percent but might lose the 20-percent support it already has," Walesa told us yesterday.

UW in Action?

The former president can see the possibility of some politicians of the Freedom Union [UW] joining Solidarity Action. "I would like to take advantage of their intellectual potential. No party can match UW as far as that is concerned. However, as far as I know, Solidarity does not feel like making any deals with UW."

Tomorrow's commemoration events will be organized by the Szczecin Agreement of the Right Wing. It is made up (which must appeal to Walesa) of communities that are part of Solidarity Action (such as Solidarity, the Christian-National Union, the Center Accord, the Peasant-Christian Party—SLCh, the Conservative Party), as well as the UW. Their cooperation in last year's by-elections to the Senate brought success to common candidate Artur Balazs of the SLCh. "In Szczecin, the opposition is doing exactly what Walesa would like to see happen. This is why he has decided to celebrate the August anniversary in that city," a right-wing politician told us. ROP has not been invited to Szczecin.

Against the Government, but No Violence

It is not known whether Lech Walesa will take part in the anniversary commemoration events organized by Solidarity on 31 August in Warsaw. "He will be invited, but I know that on that day he will want to be in Saint Brigide Church in Gdansk," Solidarity leader Marian Krzaklewski said yesterday.

The "Day of Solidarity" in Warsaw will begin at noon, with a Mass celebrated near the tomb of Father Jerzy Popieluszko. It will be celebrated by Primate Glemp. Krzaklewski will deliver the only political speech. Then the demonstrators will go from the quarter of Zoliborz to the Old Town, following the same route as the demonstration that preceded the electoral victory of Solidarity in 1989. Mazowsze Solidarity chapter leader Maciej Jankowski is expecting more than 70,000 people to take part in the march. As many as 800 buses are to arrive in Warsaw. Krzaklewski has called upon the most bellicose regions (such as Silesia) to avoid "violent actions."

The march will be aimed against the government. Krzaklewski: "We are going to protest the antiemployee policies of the governing coalition, particularly the draft law on collective employment [zbiorowe stosunki pracy]. If it is implemented, protests will be possible only in computer simulations."

A Tough Contract

In the afternoon, the organizers will organize an open-air festival. They have invited such artists as Danuta Rinn, Agnieszka Fatyga, Przemyslaw Gintrowski, Rudi Schubert, and the Univers group. There will also be an orchestra from the Szombierki mine.

Politicians of the Solidarity Electoral Action will deliver speeches. No activists of ROP or UW have been invited. "Do you agree with your spokesman Piotr Zak, who has said that the post-August groups will prepare three separate lists in the elections?" journalists asked. Krzaklewski replied that anyone who wants to join Action must "go through three gates": agree that the common platform make allowances for the trade union's ideas and that the electoral lists be drawn up in the union's regions, and conclude an electoral contract with the union. "We are wondering whether this should not be an official, legal contract," the Solidarity leader told us.

He evaded all provocative questions concerning other Solidarity groups. However, he did make one unfavorable allusion to UW's Sunday conference entitled "The Polish August": "Solidarity was established primarily thanks to the spiritual support of John Paul II, not thanks to activists of the lay left wing, such as the Workers Defense Committee."

[Under the above report, GAZETA WYBORCZA published an untitled, 150-word commentary by Wojciech Zaluska. The author writes that "Lech Walesa's political plan has ceased to be a secret. The former president wants the Solidarity Electoral Action to relegate the most radical opposition group, ROP, to the margin." According to Zaluska, Walesa "fears that Action may be dominated by the trade union, which is rather leftist in its economic views, and is encouraging it to cooperate with UW." Zaluska concludes by pointing out that "Walesa wants the popularity of Solidarity to ensure such a coalition a political success and participation of UW to help transform victory into a policy of reforms."]

Poland: Consolidation, Privatization of Banks Viewed

WS2808143296 Warsaw ZYCIE GOSPODARCZE in Polish 23 Aug 96 pp 16-17

[Article by Krzysztof Baczynski: "Consolidation and Privatization of Banks; A Sackful of Money"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *By the end of September, the Pekao SA banking group should be set up. It will be made up of the following banks: the Pomorski Bank Kredytowy [PBK], the Powszechny Bank Gospodarczy [PBG], and the Bank Depozytowo-Kredytowy [BD-K].*

The agreement to establish the group is being negotiated right now. However, it turns out to be true that it is the details that are the most difficult to handle.

The work on establishing the Pekao-headed holding bank has picked up steam. It was speeded up by the recent conference of bankers and Finance Ministry officials at Kazimierz, during which the preliminary schedule for the next few weeks was harmonized. Here is what was agreed: By the middle of August, the Pekao SA was to submit the preliminary draft of an agreement on establishing the group. The three banks involved in the consolidation process have time to present their opinion until 24 August. Immediately after that, by the end of this month, the final draft of the agreement should be ready, so that it can be signed in September. The only snag is that it is not certain whether such a tight schedule will be followed.

The Limits of Independence

There is unofficial talk that the bone of contention is the method of managing the would-be banking group (more specifically, composition of the board of directors and of the Supervisory Board), as well as the problem of pursuing a common financial policy.

It is also known that at least one of the banks involved (the Lublin-based BD-K) objects to the idea of beginning common financial planning as early as October, which was proposed by the Pekao SA in its schedule for July. Each of the banks fears that, as a consequence of the consolidation process, the achievements the banks have worked so hard to make in recent years may go down the drain. "As much integration as is necessary and as much independence as possible," proposes PBG President Andrzej Szukalski.

It is doubtful, however, that he will be able to win others over to his view. "A federation-like character for the Pekao SA group is out of the question," claims Wieslaw Federowicz, director of the Department of the Banking System and Financial Institutions at the Finance Ministry. He suggests that, if each bank pursued a separate policy, it would impede the efficient and uniform management of the entire group and have a negative effect on its efficiency. According to him, the important thing is that the individual banks will keep what they have established in regions, although things may not be so easy as far as maintaining their infrastructure is concerned. For example, brokerage offices and investment banking sections of the banks may be liquidated—the Central Brokerage Office of the Pekao SA, which dominates the market, will probably not be very favorably disposed toward its evident competitors.

The Agreement and What Next

The banks involved must quickly overcome these and other obstacles (such as agreeing on a new name for the banks). This is because they are being prodded by the Finance Ministry.

"By 30 November, the government must present a report on implementation of the consolidation process. The banking group should be set up this year, and it is the final deadline," says Director Federowicz. However, there are many procedures to go through: Before the agreement on establishing the group is signed, extraordinary plenary meetings of the shareholders of the three banks must be held (this might happen as soon as the beginning of September). Once the agreement is signed, the Finance Ministry, which acts as the owner of the bank, will call a plenary meeting of the Pekao SA, at which it will make a decision to raise its capital by contributing the shares of the PBK, the PBG, and the BD-K to the bank. It is more likely that the ministry will contribute 100 percent of the shares of each of the banks, although the law specifies that it has to be a majority block of shares.

Nonetheless, although all or most of the shares of these three banks will be transferred to the Pekao SA, the leader of the banking group will have an extremely tough nut to crack. Not only must it centralize the management, the monetary economy, and the range of products offered, but it must also install an information network that would be the same for all of the banks. It must also appraise the entire contribution and present it in a consolidated balance sheet of the holding bank. It has only a little over a year to do all that. In 1998 the Finance Ministry would like to embark on the privatization of the group. Incidentally, this date is written into the ministry's unofficial schedule.

Capital Under a Question Mark

However, the question of how to accomplish this remains a problem. What impedes work at this point is the issue of the retirement pension funds, to which, in line with one of the privatization plans, some of the shares of the group would be contributed (earlier there was talk about 51 percent of the shares).

It is not known, however, whether these institutions will be set up by that time—the reform of the social security system is proceeding "at a snail's pace." "Unless the funds are set up, other stages of the Pekao privatization will be implemented: making shares available to employees, additional issue of shares for private investors, and making the bank public," Director Federowicz predicts.

It is known, however, that only a small portion of the group's shares will be put up for sale in a public offering. This gives rise to the question of what will happen to the shares kept by the State Treasury. Some of them might be purchased by foreign capital; some people believe that it should buy approximately 20 percent of the shares.

What remains unknown, however, is whether there will be buyers willing to purchase them. The attempts to include in the consolidation program two public institutions—the Bank Przemyslowo-Handlowy [BPH] and the Bank Handlowy [BH]—started their shareholders, not only foreign, thinking. "The fact that the idea of incorporating the BPH in the structures of the BH was presented three days before closing the book of orders from foreign investors for the Bank Gdanski [BG] shares had a negative effect on the privatization of the BG. Some investors withdrew their offers, which decreased the demand for the shares of the BG, which, in turn, caused further repercussions," reveals Jaroslaw Biernacki, deputy president of the Bank Gospodarki Zywnosciowej [BGZ] SA and former director of the Banking System Department at the Finance Ministry. "Now that negotiations on the privatization of more banks are under way, investors are afraid of further consolidation ideas and thus do not want to even hear about purchasing a minority block of shares; they are only willing to assume full control," Deputy President Biernacki adds.

Waiting for Decisions

What was permitted by the law did not satisfy the authors of the consolidation program. It is worth recalling that the Sejm excluded from the program all of those institutions that are not 100-percent owned by the State Treasury.

This concerned the BPH and the Polski Bank Rozwoju [PBR]; the decision made by the parliament was preceded by pressure and protests from the foreign shareholders of these institutions. The future of the PBR, however, remains uncertain. Originally, in line with the version of the program drawn up by the Finance Ministry, it was supposed to become part of the Pekao SA group as its investment branch. As is known, this did not happen. However, decisionmakers clearly do not want to leave the PBR alone. We have found out from unofficial sources that, as a result of the obstinacy displayed by Jan Monkiewicz, under secretary of state at the Office of the Council of Ministers (now chairman of the State Insurance Bureau SA) and the actual creator of the consolidation program, the project of merging this bank with the BH, a project that is an alternative to the ministerial concept, still has not been given up. It has not been abandoned despite protests from Citibank (an American shareholder of the PBR) and negative opinions presented by some of the Finance Ministry employees.

"The fact that Deputy Minister Jan Monkiewicz is forcing the idea of contributing the State Treasury-controled shares of the PBR to the BH is detrimental to the Polish banking sector," believes Miroslaw Bojanczyk, deputy director of the System Banking Department at the Finance Ministry. "I can find no economic justification for this decision. Such an operation will not bring any major benefits to the BH but may spell liquidation of the PBR and reduction of competition in the investment banking market," Miroslaw Bojanczyk says.

"No projects will be imposed on anyone, especially if we consider the fact that neither of the two institutions wants very much to go through the consolidation process," Director Wieslaw Federowicz says reassuringly. "For the time being, the PBR can continue to develop according to its own plans, which will enable it to become Poland's true investment bank. Incidentally, the fear of merging with the BH is exaggerated. No one thought for even a moment whether, in the case of the PBR and the BH, the same mechanism might be applied that was recently proposed by the PBR and the Powszechny Bank Kredytowy. They wanted to exchange 30-percent blocks of shares with each other," Wieslaw Federowicz suggests. However, he promptly adds that it is not really possible to link the PBR and the Powszechny Bank Kredytowy. "This would disturb the process of privatizing the Powszechny Bank Kredytowy itself, which we consider a priority," Director Federowicz says.

[Box, p 17]

Wieslaw Federowicz, director of the Department of the Banking System and Financial Institutions at the Finance Ministry: "I cannot sense any negative change in the attitude of foreign investors. On the contrary, they are increasingly more interested in our banking sector. This is because the Polish economy is developing very dynamically, and our country is rated increasingly higher by foreign agencies."

[Box, p 17]

Miroslaw Bojanczyk, deputy director of the Department of the Banking System and Financial Institutions at the Finance Ministry: "The obstinacy of Deputy Minister Monkiewicz, his determination to support the consolidation plans he has prepared, is, at a minimum, incomprehensible. For example, he did not carry out any serious analyses before drawing up the consolidation program and making specific decisions. Thus, this is a classic example of how consolidation should not be implemented."

[Box, p 17]

Jaroslaw Biernacki, deputy president of the BGZ and former director of the Department of the Banking System and Financial Institutions at the Finance Ministry: "In principle, only banks that are 100-percent owned by the State Treasury or by other state institutions should be included in the consolidation program. We opposed the idea of including in the program partially privatized banks—public companies."

Romania: Iliescu Offers Program for Second Term

AU2808180896 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1600 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon at the Children's National Palace in Bucharest, a ceremony was held during which President Ion Iliescu officially announced his presidential candidacy.

In a speech on that occasion, Mr. Ion Iliescu expressed his hope that he would gain the confidence of the Romanian people for a second constitutional presidential term. His program is conceived in such a way as to allow for durable development which, on the basis of the new forces of the market economy, could lead to the increment and diversification of the population's income and an improvement in the standard of living.

Ion Iliescu called on all political forces to abandon excessive politicization in the way they approach various issues, especially those that are vital for our society, as the latter require cooperation and national solidarity.

Concluding his speech, Mr. Iliescu officially announced that he would be running for a new presidential term and he solemnly pledged in front of the citizens of Romania to defend the Constitution and the laws of the country; promote Romania as an independent, sovereign, unitary, and indivisible national state, as well as its republican form of government; and to continue to act as a guarantor of the national independence, unity, and territorial integrity of the country, of internal stability, and our country's opening to the world. Furthermore, Iliescu promised to act as a mediator for the harmonious cooperation among all state institutions and to guarantee the observance of the civic rights and liberties stipulated by the Constitution, reports our correspondent, Sorin Croitorescu.

Romania: PD Presents USD's Electoral Strategy

AU2808121296 Bucharest EVENIMENTUL ZILEI in Romanian 23 Aug 96 p 5

[Article by Marcela Feraru: "The Romanian Social-Democratic Party Has Obtained 25 Percent of the Eligible Seats on the Electoral Lists of the Social Democratic Union"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Radu Berceanu, director of the electoral campaign of the PD [Democratic Party], on 22 August presented the electoral strategy of the USD [Social Democratic Union] for the coming elections. "We want to run a campaign that is different from what has been the practice so far; a campaign that is based less on publicity and more on direct contact with citizens. We are counting on the direct link with the voters."

Victor Babiuc, executive vice president of the Democratic Party, mentioned that the USD hopes to gain at least 95 parliamentarians in the November elections, 25 percent of whom will belong to the PSDR [Romanian Social-Democratic Party]. Thus, from this viewpoint, Sergiu Cunescu [PSDR president] has obtained a surprising victory in negotiations with the Democratic Party.

Romania: PNTCD Deputy: Government Creating Inflation

AU2808140896 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 24 Aug 96 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Mircea Ciumara Says That the Measures To 'Freeze' Prices Will Create Large-Scale Inflation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] National Peasant Christian-Democratic Party [PNTCD] Deputy Mircea Ciumara said on Friday, 23 August, that the measures to "freeze" prices envisaged by the Party of Social Democracy of Romania [PDSR] are practically impossible to implement.

Ciumara said that the effects of the latest increase in energy prices have started to be felt in the costs of industrial products, due to the fact that in Romanian industry the average duration of a manufacturing cycle is about two months.

"If the government tries to freeze prices, this means that these goods will either no longer be manufactured because the factory has no means to cover the costs and will manufacture other similar products whose prices have not been frozen, or the government will pledge to subsidize those enterprises. But the government has no money for it and, therefore, it is consciously creating a fantastic level of inflation," Ciumara said.

Federal

FRY: Bosnian Refugees Begin Voting in Yugoslavia

LD2808145796 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1242 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Belgrade, 28 Aug (SRNA)—Refugees from the [Bosnian] Serb Republic and the Croat-Muslim Federation began voting today in the general elections for the authorities in these two entities at 60 polling booths in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY].

"The elections for the authorities in the Serb Republic and the Croat-Muslim Federation will last until 3 September and will be carried out in two ways," Zivota De Luca, the head of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] office in Belgrade, told SRNA.

According to him, the voting began both directly at the polling booths and by post, or rather by the system of returned envelope, which was earlier sent to [Bosnian] citizens, and which they must return, sealed, to the OSCE Belgrade office.

"According to our data, of the total of 225,000 voters in the FRY who have the right to vote, 88,000 will vote here while the rest will go to vote in the Serb Republic or the Federation," De Luca said.

He stressed that votes will also be cast for local authorities, but that part of the elections will be annulled in line with the decision of Robert Frowick, the head of the OSCE mission. [passage omitted]

FRY: More on Bosnian Refugee Turnout at Polling Stations

AU2808142896 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1104 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 28 August (BETA)—Around 60 polling stations have opened today in the FRY for refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina who have decided to vote in Serbia and Montenegro at the Bosnian general elections, which will be held in that republic on 14 September.

In Belgrade this morning, four polling stations have opened for refugees who expressed a desire to vote in the FRY.

Out of the approximately 220,000 voters from Bosnia-Herzegovina who are currently in the FRY, 85,000 have decided not to travel to Bosnia-Herzegovina to cast their votes, but rather to do so in the FRY.

In the FRY, the polling stations will be open until 3 September. In Montenegro, they will be open until 1 September for 900 refugees who are not travelling to Bosnia-Herzegovina to vote.

Bratislava Morina, commissioner for refugees of Serbia, told a news conference yesterday that the Federal Government's commission for assistance to refugees to realize their electoral rights has completed all the preparations for organizing the elections in the FRY.

Morina said that at polling stations good relations had been established with international observers, who are the only ones who have the right to raise objections over the voting.

FRY: Defense Council Debates Prevlaka, Hague Demands

AU2908121396 Belgrade NEDELJNI TELEGRAF in Serbo-Croatian 28 Aug 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Momir Bulatovic and Slobodan Milosevic Had a Severe Argument Over Prevlaka's Status"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidents of Serbia and Montenegro, Slobodan Milosevic and Momir Bulatovic respectively, parted from each other on not quite friendly terms after the meeting of the Supreme Defense Council held in Belgrade on 19 August. Actually, according to unofficial, yet reliable sources of NEDELJNI TELEGRAF, the atmosphere at the table where the two presidents were sitting was so highly charged that it could almost have started a fire.

After President Milosevic told the officials attending the meeting that the FRY would recognize Croatia and that this formality would be carried out on 23 August, President Bulatovic raised the question of whether it was the most rational thing to unconditionally recognize Croatia, particularly without making it contingent upon the status of the Prevlaka peninsula. President Milosevic answered that, in the current circumstances, such a condition can not be made because of the pressure exerted by the international community, which had been also confirmed by Warren Christopher earlier in Geneva, but the status of Prevlaka and Dubrovnik's hinterland will remain frozen and will be settled at an international level, given a firm promise by representatives of the international community, as well as by Croatian President Tudjman, that Prevlaka will be added to Yugoslavia in a discernible time....

President Bulatovic recalled that Tudjman has already lied to them once about Prevlaka, and he again insisted on a strict condition for the normalization of relations with Croatia, which is that Prevlaka should be ceded to Yugoslavia. Milosevic, however, did not want to hear a word about it.

All in all, the meeting of the Supreme Defense Council, which was held on 19 August and chaired by the President of FRY Zoran Lilic, abounded with a series of interesting topics. They discussed the demand by the Hague tribunal that the cases of certain Yugoslav Army officers who allegedly offended against the international martial law in the course of the civil war should be reexamined and that they be extradited to The Hague. It was concluded that all the officers of the Yugoslav Army who took part in the civil war in former Yugoslavia in any way should be removed from command positions in the Yugoslav Army. Those officers who fulfill the conditions for retirement should be pensioned off, while others should be assigned to new posts. If the relevant military courts establish that some officers of the Yugoslav Army had offended against international law in the course of the civil war and had committed war crimes, they will be tried by the relevant courts in Yugoslavia.

It is not excluded, however, that the aforementioned officers may still end up in The Hague, our sources believe, if, say, the Croats and the Muslims extradite all their officers who have been accused by the Hague tribunal.

At the meeting of the Supreme Defense Council, a strategy for the development of the Yugoslav Army until the year 2005 was discussed, and a decision was passed that our army should, by that time, become totally modernized and professionalized. In that sense, it was concluded that 60 percent of the regular forces of the Yugoslav Army should consist of professional soldiers, while the remaining 40 percent will be draftees who will be perform regular army service, as has been the case so far.

[Box, p 3]

The current makeup of the General Staff of Yugoslavia, according to NEDELJNI TELEGRAF sources in the top leadership of the Yugoslav Army, will soon undergo profound changes. The current chief of the General Staff, General Momcilo Perisic, will retire after the federal elections that will be held in October [as published] this year. After the elections, as is expected, a new defense minister will be elected. Among the most serious candidates for Perisic's successor, the name of Colonel General Pero Ojdanic is being mentioned most frequently. However, the personnel policy takes into account even Vuk Obradovic, the young, perspective, and now almost forgotten general of the former Yugoslav People's Army who resigned in 1992 because of the unfulfilled promise by Gen. Veljko Kadijevic to the parents of soldiers stationed in the besieged Sarajevo. Among the top brass, few people believe in the return and rehabilitation of the young general because of his lengthy absence from the command post, although there are also opinions that such a possibility should not be rejected because he is reportedly a high-ranking member of the Yugoslav United Left....

FRY: Government Plans PM's Visit to FYROM, Other Events

LD2808185496 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1807 GMT 28 Aug 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, Aug 28 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Government on Wednesday drew up a platform for Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoje Kontic's talks in Macedonia [FYROM—Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia] on September 3-4, the Yugoslav information secretariat said in a statement.

Kontic will pay the official visit to Macedonia at the invitation of Macedonian Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski.

This is the first Yugoslav prime minister's visit to Macedonia and the first official visit after the signing of an agreement on regulating and promoting cooperation between Yugoslavia and Macedonia on April 8, 1996.

The meeting in Skopje will define a long-term basis for the Yugoslav-Macedonian relations and open a process of legal regulation of certain fields of cooperation.

A number of inter-state agreements on cooperation in different fields, including economic and financial relations and transport, are expected to be signed during the visit.

An economic delegation organized by the Yugoslav Chamber of Commerce will accompany the Yugoslav prime minister on his visit to Skopje.

Yugoslav and Macedonian businessmen will also discuss possibilities for promotion, broadening and upgrading of concrete economic cooperation.

The government drew up a platform for talks between Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic and his Polish counterpart Dariusz Rosati during the latter's official visit to Yugoslavia in early September.

The two foreign ministers will discuss restoration and promotion of dialogue and cooperation between Yugoslavia and Poland.

The government drew up a platform for talks between Yugoslav Agriculture Minister Tihomir Vrebalov and his Hungarian counterpart Laszlo Lakos, who will discuss the promotion and possible forms of cooperation in the field of agriculture in Budapest on August 29.

The Yugoslav Government also drew up a bill on air traffic, which creates a legal framework for a quick and efficient promotion of the Yugoslav air traffic and its return to the European and world market.

The proposed solutions have been coordinated with international air traffic regulations and E.U. guidelines, the statement said.

FRY: Bomb Attack on Police Station in Kosovo Reported

LD2808125096 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1205 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pristina, 28 Aug (TANJUG)—Shortly after 0300 today, unidentified persons threw three explosive devices [Serbo-Croat: bomba] at the police station in the village of Celopek in Pec municipality [western Kosovo].

It has been learned from reliable sources that one device failed to explode, but the other two did, causing some damage.

This is yet another in the increasing number of terrorist attacks in recent months on police facilities in Kosovo-Metohija.

FRY: SFRY Army Reportedly Eavesdropped on Milosevic

96BA0427C Ljubljana MLADINA in Slovene 30 Jul 96 p 39

[Interview with Marko Lopusina, author of *The Yugoslav Secret Police: 1945-1995*, by Svetlana Vasovic; place and date not given: "SFRY State Secret"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Vasovic] How did you actually obtain the information about the history of the Yugoslav secret police?

[Lopusina] As a reporter, I have already been following the work of the police for 20 years. I thus came to know many members of the secret services, including a reviewer of my book, Dr. Obren Djordjevic, the former head of the Serbian State Security Service [SDB]. With their help I then reached the division chiefs and operatives who dealt with individual cases, and I also obtained copies of confidential documents from all of them.

[Vasovic] Did you reveal a state secret by doing so?

[Lopusina] This book, of course, reveals state secrets because, for instance, the dossier of Fadil Hodza says that it is a state secret. The SFRY [Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] state no longer exists, however, and people have a right to find out what really happened.

[Vasovic] Was the Yugoslav secret police's practice of abductions or liquidations similar to the practice of other secret services, especially Western ones?

[Lopusina] That practice is very similar. Its ideological slant is important, however; the Yugoslav secret police was born under the sponsorship of the NKVD, and consequently ideology was put in first place. An ideological enemy was considered by the Yugoslav secret police to be a greater danger than someone who really harmed the state's interests by revealing military and state secrets or by economic machinations, although it should be noted that at first it was a defensive policy; the Yugoslav secret police, in accordance with the principle of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," killed extremist emigres only when those emigres killed members of the secret police. The liquidations that were carried out by the Yugoslav secret police can be divided into two types: the mass liquidations after World War II, and then from 1967 on the organized political liquidations with the help of mercenaries, usually former criminals, who were rewarded with money or freedom. Criminals, in fact, are cheaper than real agents, and it is also hard for the state to prove who ordered the murder. That practice was introduced during the early 1970's by Franjo Herljevic, who gave the assassins a pistol with his own signature after every murder.

[Vasovic] We know what kind of changes occurred in most of the former Yugoslav republic security services after 1991. How much did the Serbian SDB change?

[Lopusina] New divisions emerged that covered the Krajinas and the new enemies, i.e., the surrounding countries involved in the war. This secret service is officially no longer monitoring political enemies, but actually it is still happening. Today the secret service is "covering" the entire Serbian opposition.

[Vasovic] They are even alleged to have eavesdropped on Milosevic?

[Lopusina] A "bug" really was found in Milosevic's curtain rod at the time when he was living in an apartment and was a member of the Serbian Central Committee. The army eavesdropped on him because the federal leadership and the army considered Milosevic a nationalist. They also broke into his desk in the Central Committee offices.

[Vasovic] Who could have ordered that kind of eavesdropping?

[Lopusina] It is presumed that it was done by Milan Damjanovic, Admiral Branko Manula's special chief of security. That also explains why Milosevic later fired the entire military leadership. All of those people were always big "Yugoslavs." They still have weekend cottages in Bosnia-Herzegovina and can hardly wait for the restoration of a third, "Greater" Yugoslavia. General Jovo Popovic, who is a member of the LC-Movement for Yugoslavia, even has a map of the cantonal structure of a third SFRY in which he would be the chief of the General Staff.

FRY: JUL Leadership Visit to Kosovo Described

96BA0439B Belgrade SRPSKA REC in Serbo-Croatian 29 Jul 96 p 47

[Article by Milos Djordjevic: "JUL Collaborating With Foot-and-Mouth Disease"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The JUL's [Yugoslav United Left] carefully prepared arrival in Kosovo and Metohija, which had been announced several times and postponed, did occur in the middle of July (of course). The entire leadership except for Mira Markovic came to Pristina. The JUL leaders here persistently say that they are getting new members from all nationalities, that their organization is large, and that their search for young Albanian businessmen is showing results (when their hunt for old Communists was unsuccessful: Vlaasi, Bakali, and others, who have been mentioned in the newspapers). The promotional event in the Red Room of the Boro and Ramiz Youth Center pointed up many things important to a political analysis.

The room was overflowing, but the audience consisted exclusively of Serbs (except for two Goranac and one Gypsy), who were, moreover, members of the SPS [Socialist Party of Serbia]. Everyone was in the Red Room: from the leaders of the SPS Provincial Committee, led by Vojislav Zivkovic, to Novica Sojevic, mayor of Pristina, and his associates.

For example, they gave passionate applause to Dr. Milos Simovic, professor, the "coordinator" of the JUL for Kosovo and Metohija, when he said that the JUL would not put up with Serbia's policy of centralization and inefficient local government, as though it did not concern them!? It is curious that Zivkovic should have (had to) come to Simovic's rally, although the two of them are not on speaking terms because he (Zivkovic), say analysts of the political situation here, is the "sponsor" of Simovic's removal from the post of chief of the Kosovo Okrug.

But that is strange only if one knows the entire story about the JUL rally. It was held in the Red Room of the Boro and Ramiz Center, that same place which has been inaccessible to other political parties. At that time its director, Ljubo Vujovic, sent faxes (replies) to the leaders of political parties that the rooms of the center could not be used for political rallies! That occurred many times, and the last example was the Serbian Resistance Movement. Their representatives had to hold their conference under tents. That happened twice. Before Belgrade changed its policy toward Pale, Vujovic was sponsor of the Army newspaper of the Srpska republic HERCEGOVAC (Vujovic is from Herzegovina) which was published in Bileca!

Earlier, of course, the center could not be made available to "opposition" parties, but now it can (and must) because Vujovic himself has pinned the badge of the JUL on his lapel and is sticking out his chest as though this were a medal for distinguished service to the people! And how otherwise would he behave when the organization of the JUL rally had strong police security (at the entrance to the room and the entrance to the building) as a preventive action against the announced catcalls from the Radicals and representatives of the Serbian Resistance Movement if Mrs. Mira Markovic should come to the rally?

The aversion of Serbs toward the JUL began after the conversation of representatives of the Kosovo Serbs with Mira Markovic and her frank announcement that they are not to be afraid of the solution involving "Kosovo a Republic" within the framework of Yugoslavia!

There are signs that the JUL will not make headway with the Albanians in the makeup of the participants of the rally, especially those who are supposed to take their place or give the appearance that they are present. For example, the Goranac Alija Rusiti is vice president of the JUL for Kosmet and its representative for education, and the chairman of the Committee for Agriculture is the Gypsy Pevad Berisi, a journalist for Radio-TV Serbia, who in the same context (and style), as one of the eight speakers in the Red Room, uttered several sentences in the Albanian language to those who were present and then delivered the rest of his talk in Serbian.

What comes next is indicated by the fact that those presiding over the rally included Mr. Jugoslav Vukadinovic (a man who obtained a degree from the Law School of Pristina University unlawfully), destined not to be the consul of the FRY in London and Tirana, and the fact that almost the entire membership of Bozur [Peony] except for Bogdan Kecman appeared in public!

These are questions which in and of themselves, without looking for an answer, say it all to those who are willing to see and hear. Just like the musical program which included "The Mother Seeks Her Son at Grave After Grave in Kordun," "The Igman March," "You Are Beautiful, Green Zagorje," "I Hear the Forests Roaring," "Through the Forests and Mountains," "From Ovcar and Kablar," "My Father Has Two Horses," "Oh, Kozara," and it all began with the singing of "Hey, Slavs," and ended with the Internationale and everyone standing up.

In a way, the answer is the fact that the audience included managing directors (who are officials of the JUL) against whom criminal proceedings are being conducted or those who are joining this party because they want to protect their managerial positions. Examples are Branislav Kokeric and Vasilije Bojovic of Trepca, against whom the combine's managing director Novaj Bjelic has filed criminal complaints. Bojovic, according to the allegations in the complaint, and as the press has also written, is responsible for the flooding of the Kisnica and Novo Brdo mines, from which Trepca suffered an immense loss.

In that kind of political atmosphere and with that background, one of the eight speakers, Dr. Milos Simovic, delivered a speech in which the dominant theme was that the JUL is achieving parts of its platform concerning Kosovo and Metohija in the intention of altering relations here on principles of equality, which is no simple obligation by any means. In addition, he opposed the critical behavior which is damaging to everyone in the community as a whole. He did not mention Albanians even once.

Serbia

Serbia: OSCE Says Voter Turnout Poor at Belgrade Polls

AU2808195596 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1333 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 28 Aug—From this morning, when voting stations opened for Bosnian elections, up until 1400 [1200 GMT] only one voter had voted at five of the nine voting stations in Belgrade, a Bulgarian diplomat supervising the OSCE elections said. [sentence as published]

According to the official who wished to remain anonymous, the voting stations in Zemun, Novi Beograd, Palilula, Stari Grad, and Pancevo have been set up according to OSCE rules and security officers posted at each station.

He said that for the time being, the poor voter response was in part due to the fact that a great number of refugees still have not received election materials and that "the voters are not afraid to vote."

The OSCE monitor also said that the used ballots for local elections would probably be destroyed in Sarajevo, since the OSCE Provisional Election Commission has postponed the municipal election in Bosnia-Herzegovina for next year.

Nine voting stations opened in Belgrade this morning at 0700, in Zemun, Novi Beograd, Stari Grad, Palilula, Savski Venac, Cukarica, Obrenovac, Zvezdara, and Mladenovac.

The stations will be open until 3 September from 0700 to 1900.

Serbia: Problems Seen With Absentee Voting in B-H Elections

AU2908125996 Paris AFP in English 1251 GMT 29 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, Aug 29 (AFP)—Refugees registered to cast absentee ballots in the Bosnian elections failed for the second day running Thursday to show up in significant numbers at polling stations opened for them in Serbia.

By midday Thursday, only one of four polling stations in Belgrade visited by AFP could report any voting activity, and that was by just one voter.

Some 85,000 Bosnians have registered to vote by absentee ballot in Serbia, with another 135,000 registered to travel to Bosnia on September 14 to take part in the elections there.

But staff at two of the polling stations, at Novi Beograd and Zemun, said Thursday they had not seen anyone come to cast their votes since they opened for polling the previous day.

The problems with the voting in Serbia appear to be at least partly due to logistics.

The only polling station in Pancevo, a town close to Belgrade, did not open as it was supposed to Wednesday for lack of the necessary electoral materials, the TANJUG news agency said Thursday.

At Leskovac, in the south of Serbia, none of the 3,000 registered voters had voted Wednesday, the BETA news agency said, noting numerous complaints that voters had not received their ballot papers.

Official Jerome Leyraud of the elections' organisers, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), said the ballot papers had been sent to the registered voters by post Sunday and Monday. The OSCE was hoping for the participation to increase later in the week, he added.

In total, some 640,000 refugees are registered to vote by postal ballot in the Bosnian elections, voting in

55 countries. The most important votes are in Serbia, Croatia and Germany.

Voting is already under way in several countries, including Germany, Austria, Hungary, Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] and Turkey.

All postal voting is due to end next Tuesday ahead of the main stage of the voting in Bosnia itself on September 14.

In total, around three million Bosnians are registered for the vote and opinion polls suggest that turnout will be high.

Serbia: Bosnian Voters Stay Away From Many Voting Stations

AU2808150696 Paris AFP in English 1451 GMT 28 Aug 96

[Report by Victoria Stegic: "Vote of Bosnian Refugees Gets Off to Slow Start"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Belgrade, Aug 28 (AFP)—Bosnian refugees began voting Wednesday [28 August] in Serbia and countries across Europe ahead of next month's nationwide Bosnian elections, but the polling was beset by problems as thousands of ballot papers failed to arrive in time.

Polling stations opened Wednesday in Serbia, Germany and Austria for refugees voting in their new countries. [passage omitted]

By the afternoon, however, not one voter had turned up at many of the polling stations [in Serbia].

Instead many people had lodged complaints that they had not received ballot papers which should have been sent to them by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe organising the balloting.

OSCE officials in Belgrade were not available to explain the problems.

At a polling station in central Belgrade, Jovanka Milic, an 85-year-old woman from the western Bosnian town of Glamoc, was the only person who came to vote.

She told journalists she did so "in the hope that I can return to Bosnia." Glamoc was captured by Moslem-Croat forces [Bosnia-Herzegovina Army] in late 1995.

As voting got underway in Serbia, voting also began in Germany for the nearly 130,000 Bosnians registered there and the Austrian interior ministry announced that over 27,000 people registered in Austria had also begun to vote. [passage omitted]

Serbia: 'Thousands' of Ballots Fail To Reach B-H Voters

AU2808180296 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 28 Aug 96

[Report by Jovan Matic]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, Aug 28 (AFP)—Bosnian refugees began voting Wednesday [28 August] in Serbia and countries across Europe ahead of next month's nationwide Bosnian elections, but the polling was beset by problems as thousands of ballot papers failed to arrive in time. [passage omitted]

The vote in Serbia will last until September 3 and is one of the more significant votes by refugees, alongside that of refugees in Croatia and in Germany.

By late afternoon, however, few voters had turned up to cast their votes after failing to receive the ballot papers which have been sent to them by post by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe organising the balloting.

"We are not expecting a lot of people to come today because it seems the ballot papers have still not arrived," Drasko Maric, a vote monitor in Novi Beograd [district of Belgrade] told AFP. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Bosnian Serbs appeared Wednesday to be backing away from a threat to organise their own municipal polls, after the OSCE on Tuesday postponed voting for municipal assemblies until next year.

The Bosnian Serbs will "very probably" respect the OSCE decision to delay voting for municipal assemblies until April or May, the Serb news agency SRNA said, quoting top Serb official Aleksa Buha.

Another senior Serb, Momcilo Krajisnik said the Serbs had still not decided whether or not to organise their own vote. [passage omitted]

Around Europe, government officials meanwhile said they accepted the reasons for the delay but hoped it would not have a serious impact on the holding of the main elections on September 14.

Serbia: 'Only One Voter' Appears at Vojvodina Station

AU2808204796 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1703 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Subotica, 28 Aug—Today only one voter appeared before the electoral commission for Bosnia-Herzegovina elections in Palic, the only voting station in Subotica.

"Everything has been prepared, the people have received the materials and we expect them to come and vote," Lazar Buha, member of the Palic electoral commission, said. [passage omitted]

Buha expressed his conviction that the response would be greater in coming days, but he could not explain why only one individual had turned up to vote today. He was also unable to say how many refugees should vote in Subotica.

Serbia: 'Not a Single Person' Votes at Leskovac Station

AU2808202596 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1856 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Leskovac, 28 Aug—Of the 3,000 refugees from the Serb Republic accommodated in six municipalities in Jablanica County, by 1900 [1700 GMT], not a single person showed up at the voting station.

Dobrivoje Tesic, official of the Refugee Commission in Leskovac Municipality, believes that the no show reflects "the great dissatisfaction and fear among the refugees." [passage omitted]

Serbia: Opposition Leader Says Election Delay Favors Muslims

LD2808154696 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1442 GMT 28 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, Aug 28 (TANJUG)—President of the opposition Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) Vojislav Kostunica said Wednesday that the postponement of the municipal elections in Bosnia was a 'form of election engineering' and ethnic redrawing of the maps.

Kostunica told a news conference that the decision was disturbing and had practically been taken by one man alone, head of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Bosnia Robert Frowick.

He said except for the U.S. and Germany, no Western European country had lent support to the decision.

According to the president of the parliamentary opposition DSS, the decision confirmed that the international factors with a decisive say in Bosnia were taking sides and that, 'just as in many previous cases,' Frowick had 'given in to pressure from the Muslim side.'

Kostunica termed even more unusual the OSCE decision to use the same lists of voters in both the general and the municipal elections in Bosnia.

Montenegro

Montenegro: Opposition Says Prevlaka 'Lost' to Croatia

AU2808075396 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1705 GMT 27 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Podgorica, 27 August (BETA)—Predrag Drecun, president of the Executive Committee of the People's Party of Montenegro, today accused Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic of "either keeping quiet about or misinterpreting several things in connection with Prevlaka" in his statement on the normalization of relations between the FRY and Croatia.

Speaking at a news conference on behalf of the "People's Harmony" coalition (comprising the members of the People's Party, the Liberals, and the Socialists), Drecun said that Bulatovic's statement that Yugoslavia's recognition of Croatia does not refer to the Cape of Ostri and the hinterland was not correct.

"According to Bulatovic, this was a partial recognition of Croatia. However, Article 1 of the agreement clearly states that the FRY and Croatia respect each other as independent, sovereign, and equal states within their respective international borders," Drecun said. [passage omitted]

"It is more than obvious that Montenegro has lost Prevlaka and that for this reason the naval base is being moved from Boka to Valdanos. The stories about Valdanos as a paradise for the army was invented to justify the unsuccessful policies of Momir Bulatovic and Slobodan Milosevic.

"There has been no more damaging international agreement for our people for a long time. What makes the irony even greater is that the agreement was signed in Belgrade," Drecun concluded.

Montenegro: Muslim Party Supports Opposition Coalition

AU2808115496 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1236 GMT 27 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Podgorica, 27 August (BETA)—The Muslim Democratic Party (MDS) of Montenegro today expressed support for the establishment of a coalition of opposition parties in Montenegro—the Liberal Party, People's Party, Social Democratic Party, and other political parties. It also voiced the conviction that, once it wins the elections, the opposition will bring to realization overall democratic rights of all the citizens, including the Muslim people.

By selecting constituencies and determining the number of possible representatives in those constituencies, the Democratic Party of Socialists [DPS] is trying to place the Muslims in opposition to their political like-minded parties, the liberals and the social democrats, reads the MDS statement.

The statement also emphasizes that the DPS has tried to marginalize the Muslims outside the constituency of Rozaje-Plav, despite the fact that that constituency is 35 percent Muslim.

"All this shows that the DPS is using even the slightest possibilities to covertly control the processes of liberation," concludes the statement of MDS.

Kosovo

Kosovo: Serbian Policeman Shot, Killed

LD2908061296 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0558 GMT 29 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pristina, Yugoslavia, Aug 28 (TANJUG)—A Serbian state security policeman was killed in a village in Serbia's province of Kosovo-Metohija on Wednesday afternoon.

Two unidentified assailants opened fire from automatic rifles on the officer, Ejup Bajgora, as he got off the bus on his way home in the village of Donje Ljupce near Podujevo, according to reliable sources.

The assailants are in hiding.

Early on Wednesday morning, persons unknown threw grenades on the police precinct in the village of Celopek near Pec in Kosovo-Metohija. The blasts caused some damage, but no casualties.

These are the latest of increasingly frequent terrorist attacks carried out in the past months against police facilities and officers and against Serbs and Montenegrins in Kosovo-Metohija.

A strong ethnic Albanian separatist movement has been operating in Kosovo-Metohija for decades. Separatists have proclaimed an illegal republic of Kosovo, and strive to detach it from Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and annex it to Albania.

Kosovo: Serbian Army Movements Reported

AU2808073696 Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT in English 27 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Serbian Army stationed near the Prishtina [Pristina] airport have set up a camping site in the school-yard of the local primary school in Vrelle village, LDK [Democratic League of Kosova] sources reported.

Albanian children were forced to leave their school building six years ago and have been denied entrance since.

The Serbian Army has been maneuvering in the region for almost a week now. Hundreds of Serb regular soldiers and reservists exercise force and often provoke local residents.

Over the last weeks, Serbian Army movements and transfers were seen throughout Kosova. Convoys of lorries with Serb soldiers aboard and heavy armament have been seen moving on the roads throughout Kosova.

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